

50
NIFTY

SUPER **Magic Tricks**



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GV1548
.W66
1997

Written by Elizabeth Wood and Shawn McMaster
Illustrated by Neal Yamamoto

Boston Public Library

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NOTE: The three cards in the upper right-hand corner indicate the level of difficulty of each magic trick, 1 being the easiest and 3 the hardest.

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“Tricks” of the Trade

Before you start pointing your magic wand trying to turn your little sister into a rabbit, take heed. Every activity or hobby has certain “rules” that must be followed to ensure success. Even magic has a few tips that every magician adheres to. Read them, learn them, know them—and you will be on your way to becoming a real magician!

Never reveal how a trick is done.

Never? Never! This is probably the most important rule to be remembered by anyone studying magic. A well-performed magic trick creates a sense of wonder to those who experience it. If you, the magician, explain how you did the trick, you are reducing the magic to nothing more than just a simple joke or a puzzle to your audience.

Never repeat a trick.

No matter how much they scream, “Do it again!” and no matter who it is asking you to repeat a trick—don’t! Whenever you repeat a trick for the same person or audience, you run the risk of the secret of your trick being discovered.

Think about it. When you fool your friends with a magic trick, why are they fooled? Because none of your friends knew what to expect. Now, if you were to do the exact same trick over again, do you think your friends would watch it again in the exact same way?



No. They have already *seen* the trick. They know what happened. Instead of looking at the trick, they will be watching you and your *every move*.

As with most rules, there are a few exceptions. First of all, there are magic tricks that depend on you repeating the same actions over and over within that trick. There are also some tricks that are so cleverly put together that you can repeat the same trick. But in this case, only repeat it once. How do you know when it is okay to repeat a trick? Usually, when you are reading how the trick works, the instructions will tell you. If the instructions don't say anything about repeating the trick, don't repeat it!

The next exception to the rule are those tricks known as "sucker tricks." These are tricks where it appears as if the magician is repeating the trick to explain how it's done. However, the magician fools the audience *again*, and the audience realizes that the magician was never really explaining how the trick was accomplished. It was all part of the trick!

The only other time repeating a trick is allowed is when you actually know two or more ways of accomplishing the same trick. This way, if your friends ask you to do the trick again, you can. Just do it a different way. This will throw your friends off, because they will notice that you are doing it a bit differently. By the time they get their thoughts together, you will have reached the end of the trick and fooled them all over again!

Practice, practice practice.

Practice is a very important element in the art of magic. Every trick you ever learn will have to be practiced until it can be done flawlessly. Some tricks will take more time to learn than others, but all magic tricks need to be practiced.

You should practice each trick in your room or somewhere private where you can be alone to study how the trick is going to look to the audience. To study your movements, practice in front of a mirror. This will allow you to see the magic trick from the audience's perspective. If you catch a glimpse of something that you are not supposed to see, chances are someone in your audience would have seen it, too.

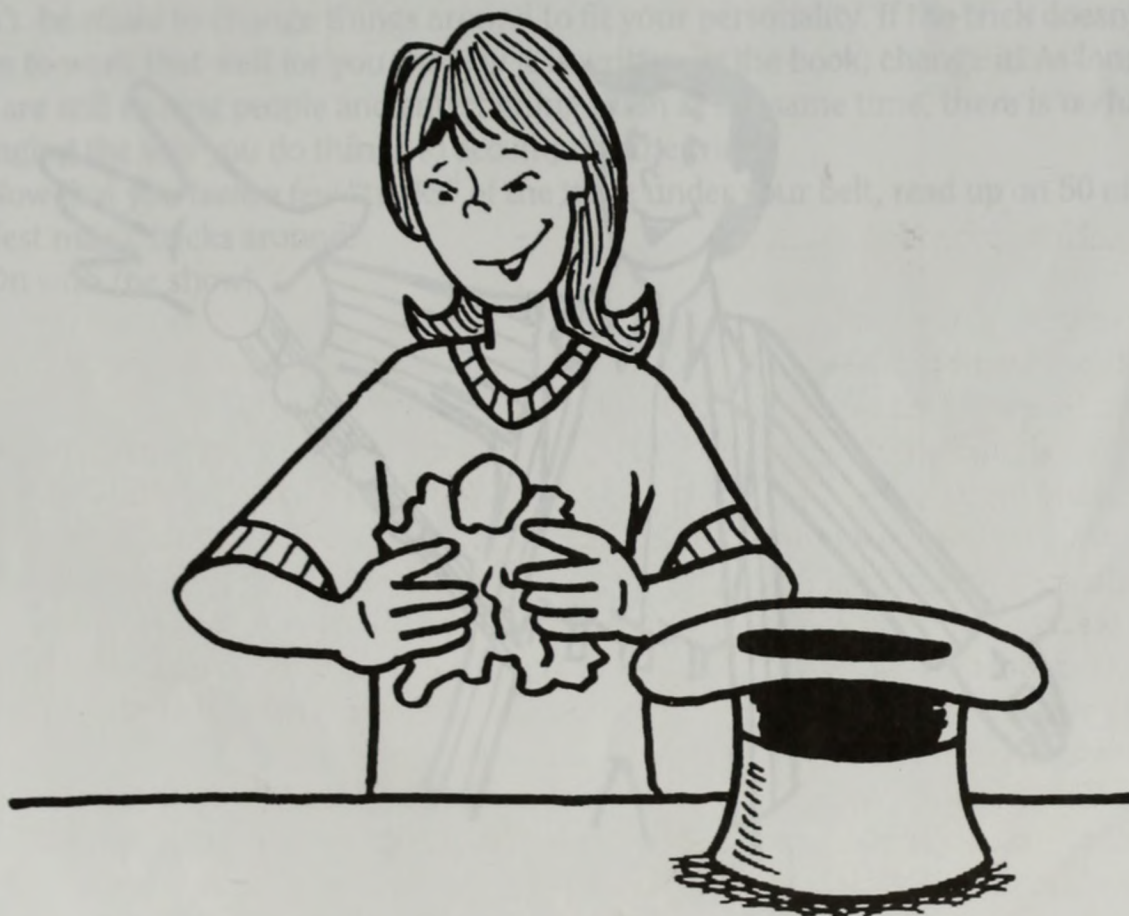
One tool that can help you out while practicing your magic is a video camera. If you own a video camera, you have technology that some of the greatest magicians in the world never had available to them. But since you do, use it!

With an adult's help, set up your video camera and focus it on the area where you will be practicing your magic. If you move around during the trick, you may need to have someone behind the camera, following your actions. Practice every trick as if you were in front of an audience. When you are done, pop the tape into your VCR and watch yourself perform. Look for areas within the trick that need work. If you

messed up somewhere along the way, you will see it on the tape and correct it the next time. Don't forget to listen to yourself talk while you watch the trick. Does your patter need work?

During parts of the trick where you did something exceptionally well, use the rewind on your VCR to study it again. The more you see it, the easier it will be for you to remember just how you accomplished it. If your VCR has a slow motion feature . . . all the better! Slow the tape down so you can study it even closer.

Regardless of what tools you use to practice with, each and every trick should be performed until you know it by heart. That way, not only will you be confident when you present the trick, but you won't have to pay that much attention to the trick itself while you are performing it and will, therefore, be able to focus more attention on your audience.

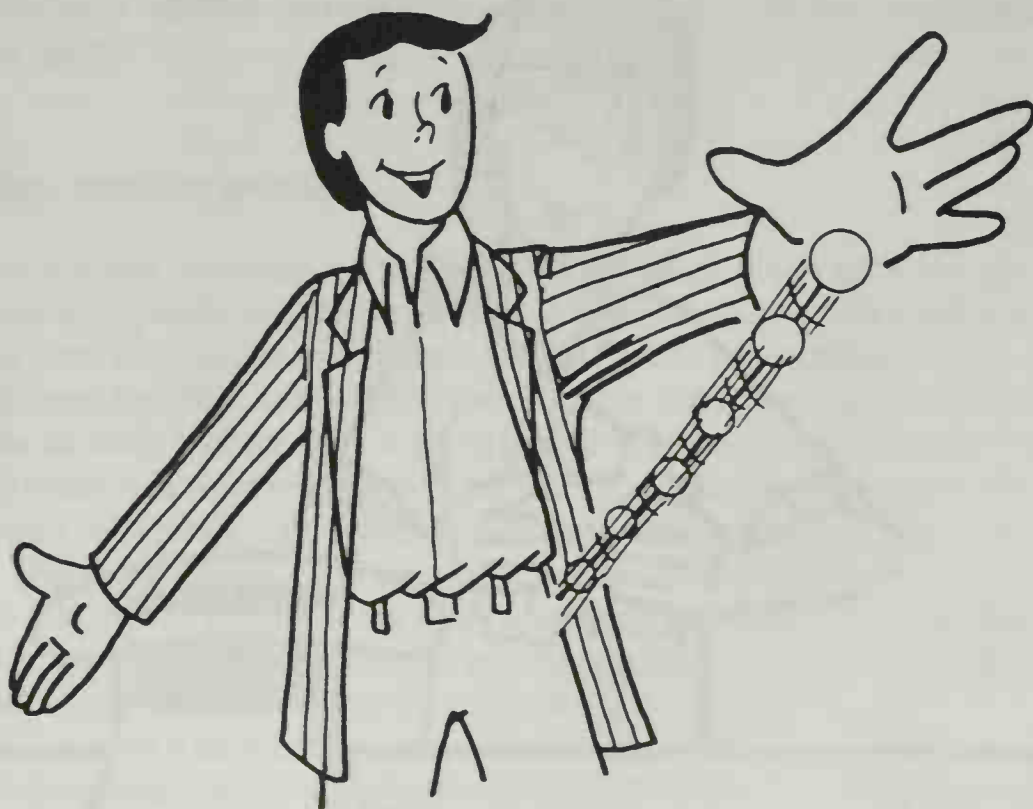


Appearance counts.

The way *you* look to your audience is just as important as the way your *tricks* look to the audience. Therefore, very close attention should be paid to your appearance.

Obviously, if you are just doing a few tricks for some friends, you don't need to put on a tuxedo. But you should give the impression that you are a competent magician and, therefore, dress the part. Make sure that your clothes are clean and free of tears or holes. The better you look, the better you will feel about yourself, and the more confident you will be.

Now, on the other hand, if you *are* presenting a formal magic show to an audience—a little more care toward your appearance is needed. For boys, a clean shirt and matching tie is appropriate. A coat or dress jacket will add to the outfit and



will also supply some handy pocket space for the carrying of some props. For the girls, a nice pants suit or dress will do fine. If you are well dressed for your show, your magic will be much more appealing to the people watching it, and you will gain an early command of your audience. They will *want* to see what you have to show them. They will have confidence in you and your magic. Think about it. If you were to visit a restaurant and the waiter or waitress who brought you your food was untidy and dirty looking, would you have confidence in eating the meal?

Above all, whether presenting your magic formally or informally, make sure your hands are clean—skin *and* fingernails. The hands are the magician's most important props. They are what the audience is going to spend the most time looking at. Take good care of them and treat them well. If needed, a nongreasy hand lotion can be used. This will keep your hands soft and smooth looking.

Be original.

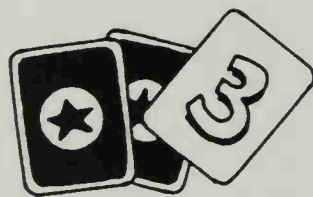
Make any trick you do your own. Play around with the storyline and presentation. Don't be afraid to change things around to fit your personality. If the trick doesn't seem to work that well for you the way it is written in the book, change it! As long as you are still fooling people and entertaining them at the same time, there is no harm in changing the way you do things to accomplish the trick.

Now that you have a few "tricks" of the trade under your belt, read up on 50 of the niftiest magic tricks around!

On with the show!



Big Squeeze



What You'll Need

Getting Ready

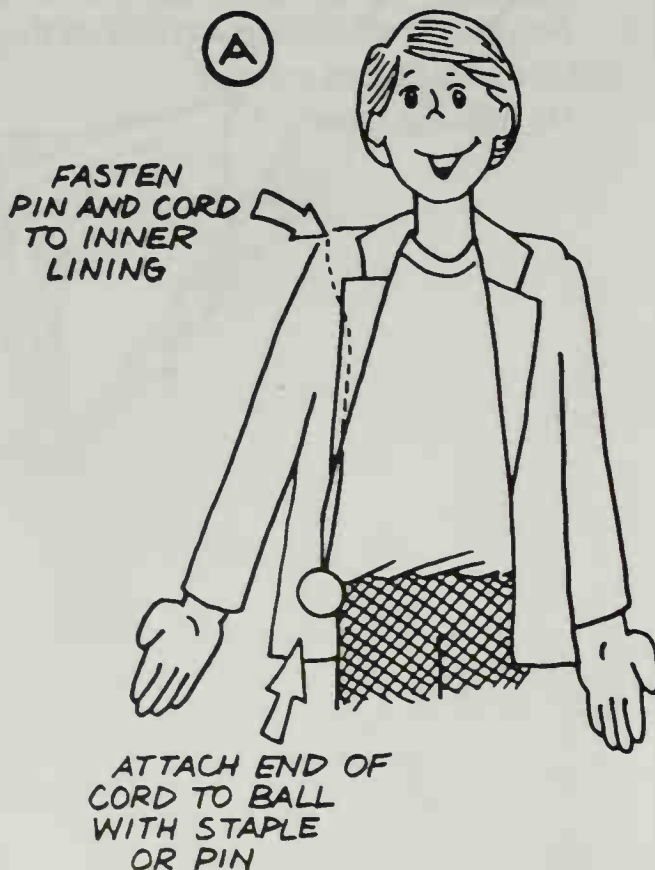
Show Time!

Squeeze a little glass of water so tightly that it vanishes into thin air!

- a black elastic cord that is a little shorter than your arm
- a hard rubber ball that will fit tightly into the mouth of a shot glass
- a staple or pin
- safety pin
- small shot glass

Attach one end of the cord to the ball with the staple or pin. Tie the other end of the cord to the safety pin. Fasten the safety pin with the cord tied to it to the inner lining of your magician's jacket at the top of the right shoulder (A). The cord and rubber ball should hang three inches *above* the bottom of your jacket. If the cord is too long, cut it from the top and retie it to the safety pin.

1. While standing in front of the audience, pretend you have an itch. The itch should be near your right hip. Reach into your jacket with your right hand and pretend to scratch. Take the hanging ball into your hand as you do this. As you withdraw your hand, make sure your knuckles are facing the audience and that the ball is well concealed in your palm with your last three fingers holding the ball in place. This technique is known as *palming*, and although it may feel funny, it is a very effective way to hide small objects. And, if you relax your other fingers, it makes you look like a great showman.



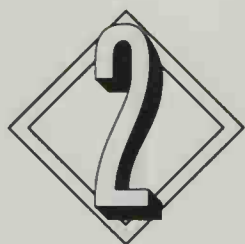
2. Pick up the glass with your left hand and point to it with your right hand (with ball still concealed). Say, "I've been practicing my powers of strength, and yesterday I squeezed a glass like this into thin air. Let's see if I can do it again."
3. Put your right hand on top of the glass and squeeze the glass between both hands with all your might. While you are squeezing, jam the secret ball into the mouth of the glass until it is tightly stuck (B), and straighten your arms out and down to stretch the elastic cord.
4. Turn slowly to your left and then suddenly throw your hands up into the air and yell, "Shazam!" The glass will be pulled into your jacket so quickly that no one will see it disappear. Your hands will be empty!

NOTE: This trick requires lots of practice. When it is performed well, you will earn everyone's respect.

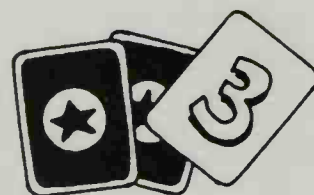
(B)

**PALM BALL AND
SECRETLY JAM
INTO THE MOUTH
OF GLASS**





Classic Cups and Balls



What You'll Need

- 4 balls, either sponge or paper
- 3 cups

(The cups must be stackable so that they “nest” together. They must also be tapered so the balls fit between the cups when they are stacked, without being noticed. The cups must be of a solid material so no one can see through them.)

Getting Ready

Place a ball into one of the cups. Stack, or nest, the three cups, *mouths up*, on a table. The cup containing the ball goes in the middle of the stack (A). Place the remaining three balls in the top cup.

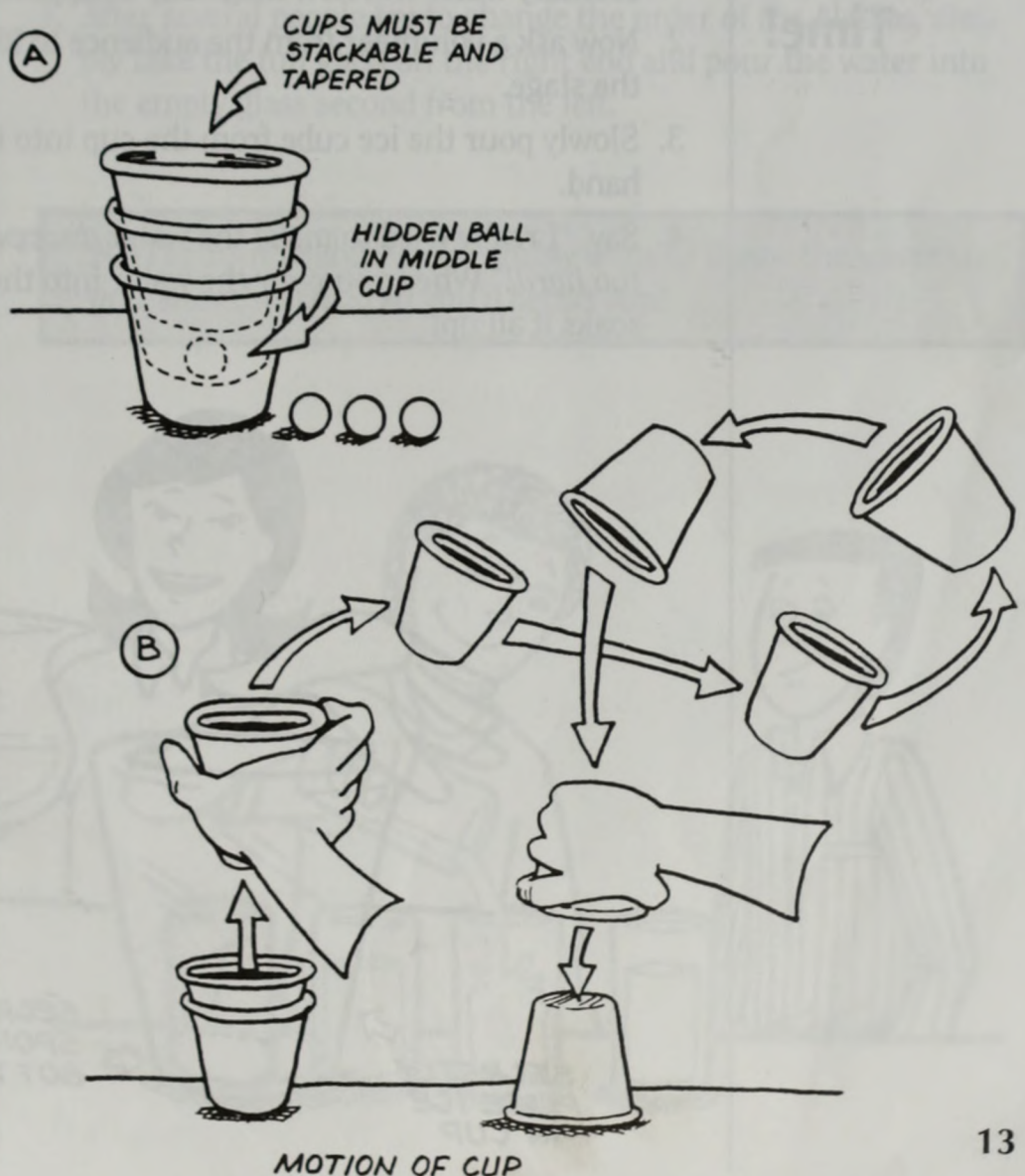
Show Time!

1. Pick up the cups together in one stack and spill the three balls onto the table. This lets everyone see the balls.
2. **THE HARD PART:** Everyone should see each empty cup but not the secret ball. Holding the stack of cups upright, take the top cup with your free hand and swoop the cup up and down through the air, then set it *mouth down* on the table (B). Repeat with the middle cup (the secret-ball cup). Place it over the upside-down cup on the table. (You should practice this several times beforehand so the ball doesn't roll out.) Place the third cup, in the same manner, upside down on the other two.
3. Tell the audience that you have no tricks up your sleeve. Pick up the cups in the stack, turning them right side up. One at a time, place them *mouths down* on the table, side by side. The cup with the secret ball in it will be in the middle. Remember to swoop each cup through the air before you put it on the table!

NOTE: Swooping your hand through the air actually helps force the ball to stay in the cup when it is upside down for a short time.

4. Pick up one of the three balls that you spilled out in Step 1 and place it on top of the middle cup. Cover it with the other cups, tap your wand on top, and say, "Hocus Pocus!" Pick up the stack with one hand. Presto! The ball on the table must have gone right through the cup!

NOTE: This trick requires lots and lots of practice in order to achieve a flawless performance. The great thing about it is that once you've memorized the steps, you can perform it just about anywhere! Once you've become comfortable with the steps and can easily swoop and turn the cups over without spilling the balls, you can make up your own routine.





Classic Cup

Quick Freeze



What You'll Need

Getting Ready

Show Time!

You can magically turn water into ice without a freezer!

- scissors
- sponge
- paper cup
- glue
- ice cube
- water
- pitcher

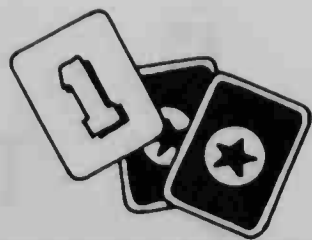
Cut the sponge to fit snugly into the bottom of the cup. Secure it with a little glue. Right before you perform this trick, secretly place the ice cube at the bottom of the cup.

1. Pour a *little* water from the pitcher into the cup and say, "This ordinary water will now magically disappear."
2. Now ask a volunteer from the audience to kindly join you on the stage.
3. Slowly pour the ice cube from the cup into the volunteer's hand.
4. Say, "I really tried to make the water *disappear*, but it was just too *hard*!" When you pour the water into the cup, the sponge soaks it all up!





Five Glass Jive



What You'll Need

- 5 glasses
- water

Getting Ready

Fill three of the five glasses with water. Line them up on a table in the following manner: full, empty, full, empty, full.

Show Time!

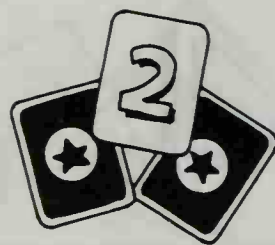
1. After several people try to change the order of the glasses, simply take the full glass on the right end and pour the water into the empty glass second from the left.

NOTE: Your friends will probably want to throw the water on *you* after this trick, so you'd better run!





Tip Over Tube



What You'll Need

Getting Ready

Show Time!

With your magic tube, change a white ball to red and back to white again!

For the Tip Over Tube:

- 2 small, empty vegetable cans (3¼ inches high, 2½ inches wide)
- colored adhesive tape
- black contact paper
- scissors
- glitter

For the trick:

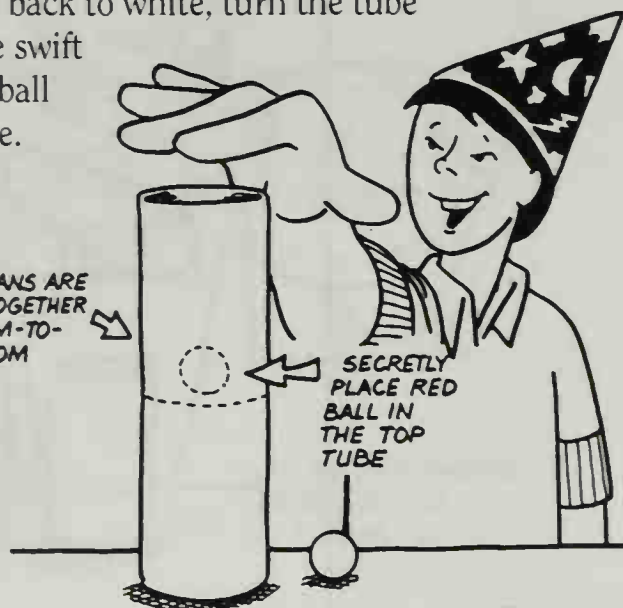
- the finished Tip Over Tube
- 2 rubber balls: one red, one white

To make the Tip Over Tube, place cans bottom-to-bottom. Wrap tape around the middle so they stay together. Wrap black contact paper around the whole tube to completely cover the cans. Decorate the tube with colorful tape and glitter any way you like.

1. Stand the tube on one end and hide the red ball in the top part. Place the white ball next to the tube.
2. In front of the audience, pick up the tube slowly from the bottom. Quickly turn it over and put it down so the red ball does not fall out. Practice this several times. You'll be surprised how easy this is to do.
3. Drop the white ball into the top compartment of the tube. Your audience will expect the white ball to fall through, but when you pick up the tube, the ball underneath will be red!
4. To change the red ball back to white, turn the tube over again in the same swift way, and drop the red ball into the top of the tube.
5. Lift the tube again and show that the red ball has turned back to white!

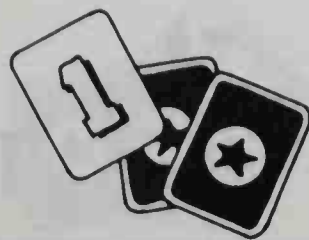
TWO CANS ARE
TAPED TOGETHER
BOTTOM-TO-
BOTTOM

SECRETLY
PLACE RED
BALL IN
THE TOP
TUBE





What Water?



What You'll Need

Getting Ready

Show Time!

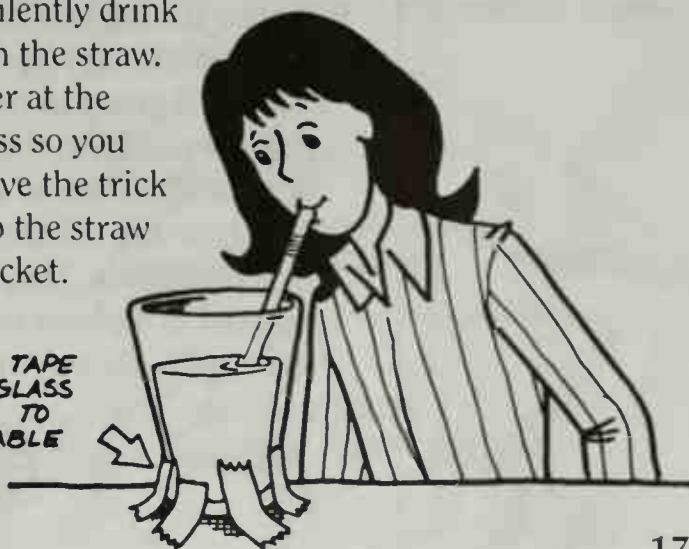
This marvelous trick is perfect for a real wiseguy. It is also very easy. The magician makes water disappear with a flick of a light switch.

- drinking straw
- glass $\frac{3}{4}$ full of water
- colored or white adhesive tape

Before performing this trick, practice drinking very quietly through the straw. Then hide the straw in your pocket.

1. Tape the glass of water to the table. Explain to your audience that you are going to make the water in the glass disappear without moving the glass or the tape. (Fastening the glass down is a little Houdini-like and will add some drama and suspense.)
2. Close your eyes and appear to be concentrating *very* hard. Pretend that you are trying to make the water go away with the power of your mind. Take a peek at your progress by opening one eye. When you see that nothing has happened, act really embarrassed. Ask for total darkness because you can't stand the embarrassment.
3. When your assistant turns out the lights, stomp up and down, bang your fists, and make a lot of noise. In the meantime, take out the straw. Use the noise as a distraction while you quickly and silently drink the water through the straw. Leave a little water at the bottom of the glass so you don't slurp and give the trick away. Quickly pop the straw back into your pocket.
4. Have your assistant flick the light back on while you stand there with a big grin on your face.

TAPE
GLASS
TO
TABLE





The Tissue Tease



What You'll Need

Getting Ready

Show Time!

Craftily turn three pieces of wadded-up tissue paper into one piece of tissue paper with a secret message.

- felt pen
- 1 large piece of tissue paper and
3 small pieces of tissue paper

With the felt pen, write, "Keep litter off the streets" in big letters on the large piece of tissue paper. Crumple it up into a ball and put it in your jacket pocket. Crumple up the other three pieces into balls. The audience will see these during the trick.

1. Place the three little paper balls on the table in front of you. Pick up two balls and put them in your left hand. Show the audience.
2. Pick up the third ball and put it in your pocket. Pull it out again as if you have changed your mind, but bring out the bigger ball at the same time, hidden in the palm of your hand.
3. Place the third ball in your left hand with the other two. Immediately put your hands together and wad all the pieces of paper together with the big one.
4. With your left hand remove the *big piece only* from the wad now in your right hand. Make the audience think you've got nothing left in your hand by palming the three small balls and moving your fingers naturally.
5. Throw the big wad of paper into the audience as you casually place the small group into your pocket. Ask the person in the audience who caught the wad to open it up. He or she will expect to find three balls. They'll be amazed to find *one* piece of paper with the very smart message!

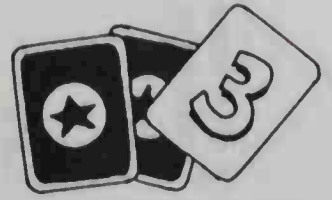
SECRETLY
EXCHANGE
PAPER BALLS



SHOW OTHER
TWO PAPER
BALLS TO
AUDIENCE



The Last Drop



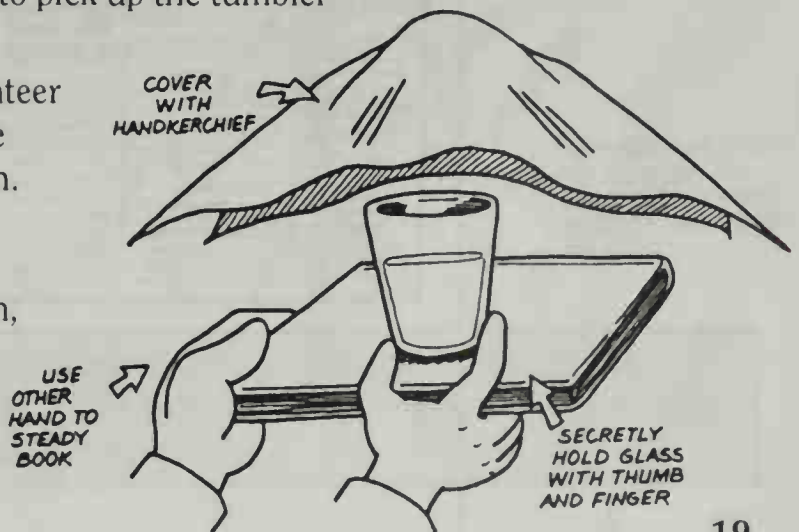
What You'll Need

Show Time!

By adding one more drop of water to a glass, make it impossible for a volunteer to lift the glass from a book.

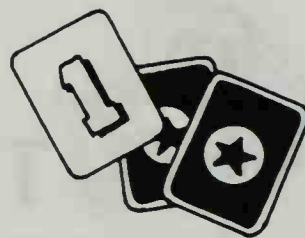
- hardcover book
- pitcher of water
- eyedropper
- empty plastic tumbler
- large handkerchief

1. Invite a volunteer onstage.
2. Hold the book in your right hand with your thumb on top of the book and your fingers below the book. Place the plastic tumbler on top of it. Pour the water from the pitcher into the tumbler until it is half full.
3. Cover the book and tumbler with the handkerchief. Ask the volunteer to pick up the tumbler from the top through the handkerchief. Ask him or her to set the tumbler down again. Remove the handkerchief and add one drop of water to the tumbler using the eyedropper.
4. Cover the book and the tumbler again with the handkerchief. Quickly shift your fingers under the handkerchief so that your thumb and pointer are above the book and holding tight to the bottom of the tumbler. The rest of your fingers are under the book. Steady the book with your other hand if you need to, but let the volunteer see that hand *above* the handkerchief. As you shift your fingers with a quick move, explain that you forgot to say the magic words, "Hocus Pocus," which will make it impossible for him to pick up the tumbler this time.
5. Ask the volunteer to pick up the tumbler again. Because you are holding it by the bottom, he won't be able to move it at all!





Super Paper



What You'll Need

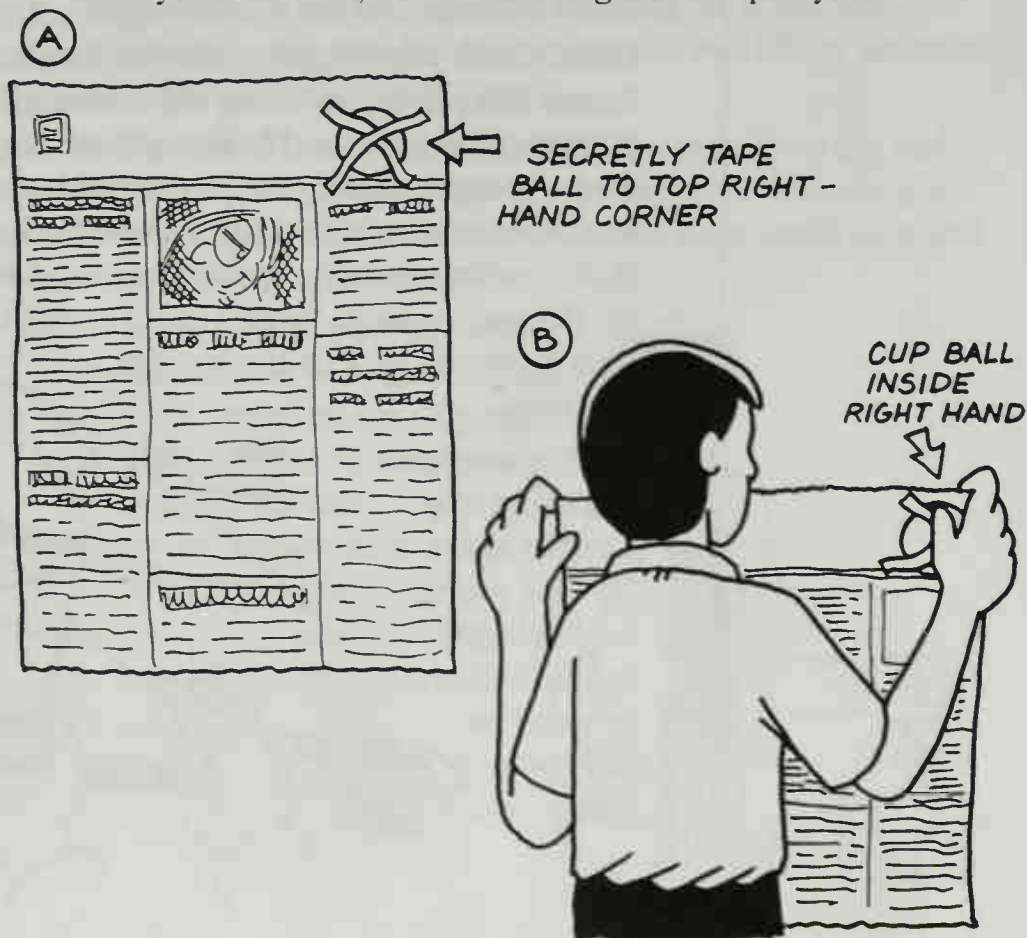
- double-sided adhesive tape
- hard rubber ball
- single sheet of newspaper comics

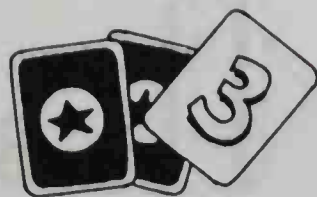
Getting Ready

Tape the ball to the top right-hand corner of the comics page in a crisscross fashion (A).

Show Time!

1. Hold the paper in front of you by its upper corners with the ball facing you and cupped inside your right hand (B).
2. Say, "Believe it or not, I'm going to turn this funny page into a funny bouncing ball." Tightly crumple the paper around the rubber ball, then show the audience your great paper ball.
3. Chances are your audience won't be too impressed. That is, until you bounce it, and it comes right back up to your hand!





What You'll Need

Getting Ready

Show Time!

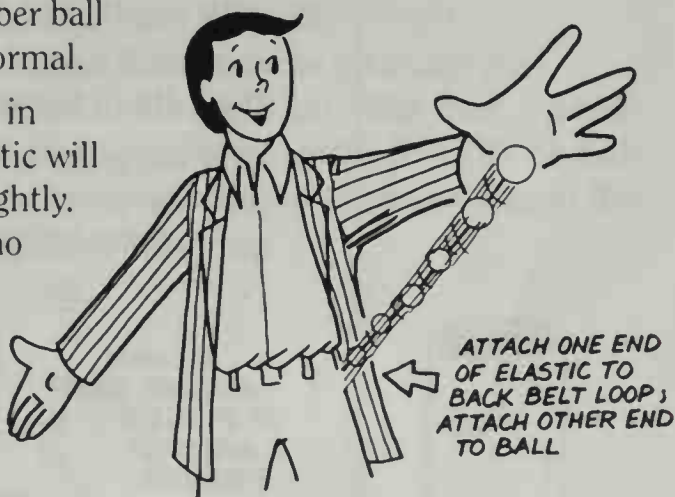
With ease and grace, you can make a rubber ball vanish into thin air!

- pants with belt loops
- small rubber ball
- 12 inches of black elastic cord
- tack

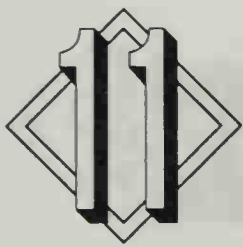
In this trick, belt loops on pants serve as a quick springlike device to make a rubber ball look as if it has vanished into thin air. To set up the trick, attach one end of the elastic cord to your middle back belt loop. String the cord through all the loops on your left side except for any that might show when your magician's coat is not buttoned.

Next, attach the rubber ball to the other end of the cord with the tack. The elastic needs to be as long as the distance between the back belt loop and the first completely hidden belt loop. That first loop stops the ball from swinging away from you and keeps the ball within your reach, too.

1. Take the rubber ball in your left hand and stand so your left side faces the audience. Let them see the ball but not where it came from—pretend to have taken it out of your pants pocket. Because your left arm will be blocking the elastic from the audience's sight, the rubber ball will look perfectly normal.
2. With the rubber ball in front of you, the elastic will be stretched fairly tightly. Let go quickly, and no one will see the ball escape inside your jacket.



NOTE: This trick happens so quickly, it is more effective to perform it in silence. It does, however, require lots of practice to be pulled off effectively.



Ball Gone



What You'll Need

Getting Ready

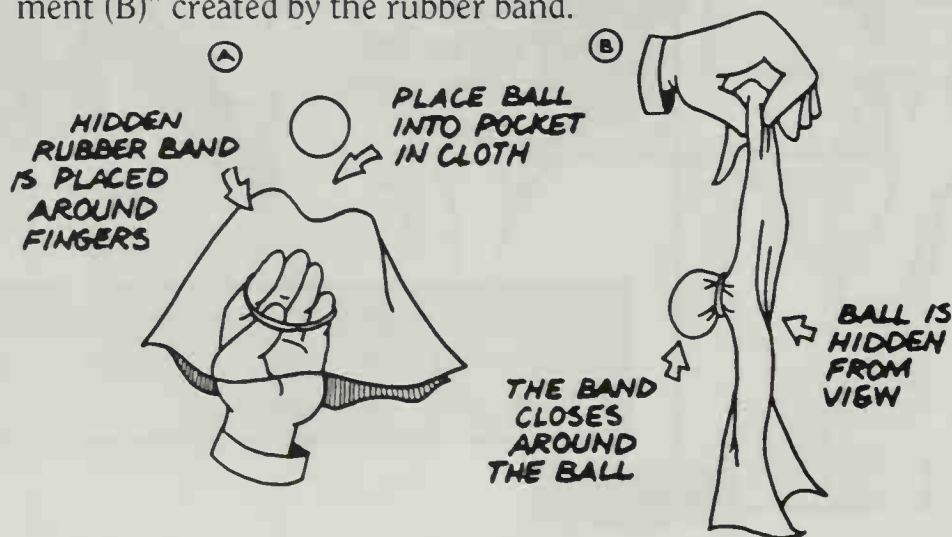
Show Time!

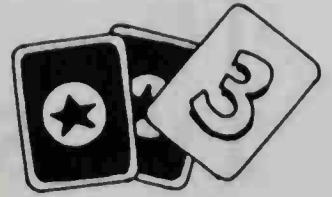
With the flourish of a silk handkerchief, you can make a rubber ball disappear!

- small rubber band
- small rubber ball
- multicolored silk handkerchief

Secretly place the rubber band around the tips of your fingers on your left hand. Lay the handkerchief over your left hand, fingers pointing up (A). This won't be easy to do during a performance. You can either go offstage and come out again with the handkerchief draped across your hand, or, with practice, you can hide your hands below the tabletop so your audience can't see you put on the rubber band. Place the handkerchief over your hand as you stand up straight again.

1. Poke one of your right fingers down into the center of the rubber band to form a pocket in the handkerchief. The audience will not be able to see the rubber band.
2. Place the ball into the pocket (A) and close your left fist and your right fist around it and the handkerchief. Say, "This little ball will now disappear before your very eyes."
3. With your right hand, grasp one corner of the handkerchief and give it a quick shake, while letting go with your left hand. The ball will be gone!
4. After you grasp and shake the handkerchief, hold it down at your side so the audience will not notice the "secret compartment (B)" created by the rubber band.





What You'll Need

- cardboard mailing tube
- black tempera paint
- paintbrush
- long sturdy needle
- black thread
- small black bead
- glitter
- ball that fits snugly in the tube but rolls through easily
- glue
- ruler

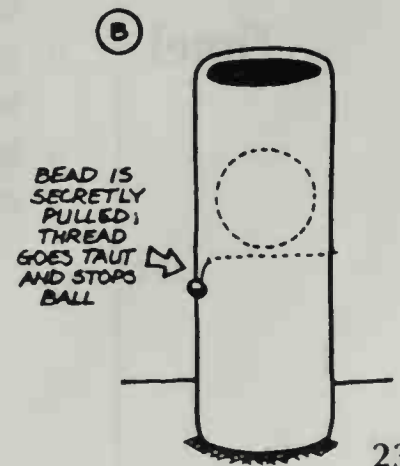
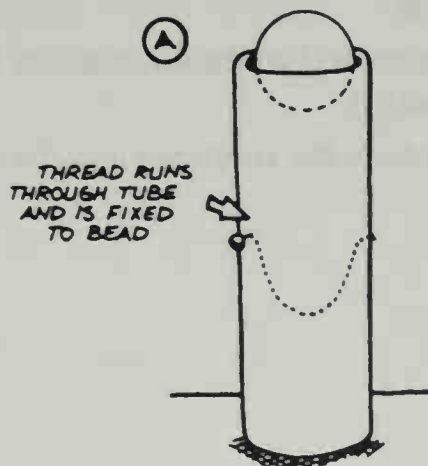
Getting Ready

Paint the mailing tube solid black and let it dry completely. Use the needle to poke a hole in the tube about 7 inches from the end. Poke another hole directly across from the first hole. Thread the needle and push it into one hole and out the other hole. Tie a knot at the end of the thread to stop it from going all the way through.

String the bead onto the thread. Tie the bead to the outside end of the thread so that when the bead is touching the tube, the thread inside the tube is loose (about twice the width of the tube) (A). When the bead is pulled away from the tube, the thread should be pulled tight across the inside of the tube. Decorate the tube with different colors of glitter in any pattern you like.

Show Time!

1. Hold the tube straight up and down so that the bead is hidden under your thumb. With the bead in position next to the tube, drop the ball into the tube. It will fall right through.
2. Secretly pull the bead along the side of the tube with your thumb and drop the ball into the tube again. This time, the ball will seem to be magically suspended inside the tube (B). Secretly let go of the bead, and the ball will tumble out again! Repeat this trick a few times for added effect.





Strawberry Milk



What You'll Need

- construction paper, any color
- 2 glasses
- clear adhesive tape
- piece of white cloth
- piece of cloth with red strawberries on it (bought at fabric store)
- container of milk
- eye dropper
- red food coloring
- stirring wand

Getting Ready

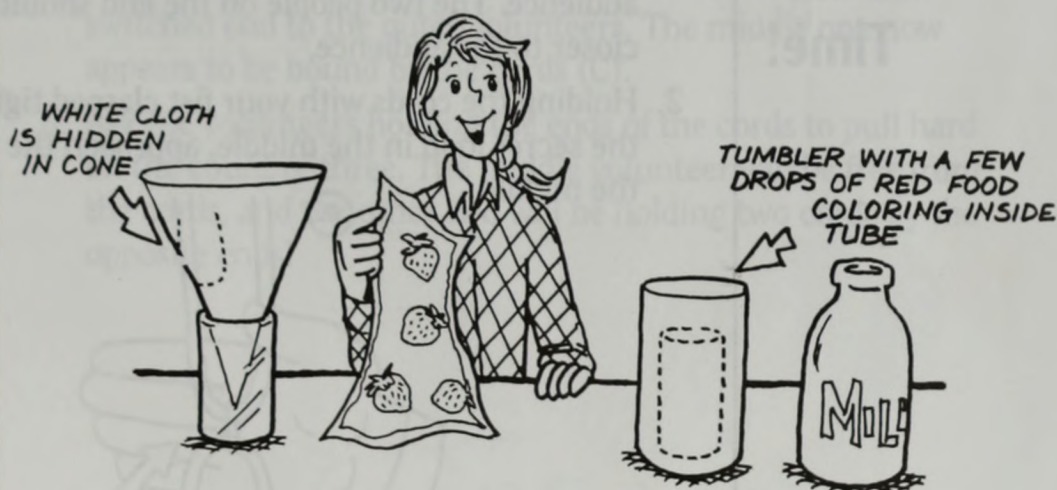
Roll up a sheet of construction paper to make a tube large enough to conceal one of the glasses. Fasten it with tape. Next, make a cone with another sheet of paper. The pointed end should fit inside the other glass. Before fastening the cone with tape, make a secret pocket with a square of construction paper of the same color. Tape three sides down, leaving the fourth open. Then roll up the cone with the pocket on the inside and fasten the cone together with the tape.

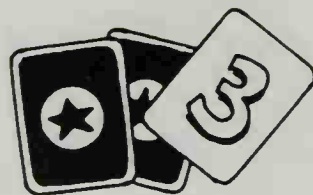
Next, fold the white cloth and slide it into the secret pocket in the cone. To prepare the table, set the cone, one empty glass, and the piece of strawberry cloth on one side of the table. On the other side, set the tube, the container of milk, and the other glass. Put three to four drops of the red food coloring into this glass. No one will see them.

Show Time!

1. Place the pointed end of the cone into the empty glass on one side of the table.
2. Stand the tube on end on the other side of the table. Put the second glass into it.
3. Pour the milk from the container into the glass that is in the tube.

4. Hold the strawberry cloth up to the audience for inspection. Carefully fold it up as flat as possible and slide it into the secret pocket of the cone alongside the piece of white cloth. (Practice this before the performance until you can do it smoothly without looking like you are setting anything up.)
5. With the wand, pretend to stir the cloth around in the cone. Next, stir the milk in the glass inside the tube.
6. Tell the audience that the strawberries have been magically removed from the cloth and transferred to the milk.
7. Lift the *plain* cloth out of the cone and show it to the audience.
8. Lift the tube to reveal the glass of pink milk! "Boy, I love strawberry milk," you say. Take a sip!





A volunteer magically escapes after being tied up!

What You'll Need

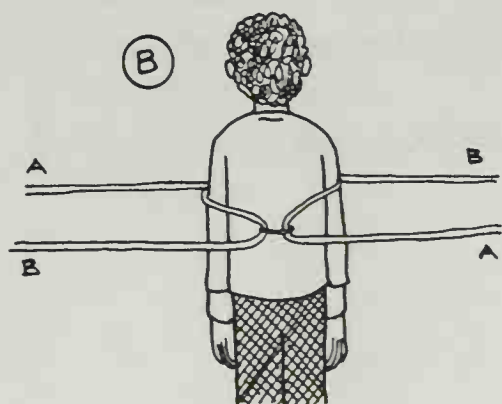
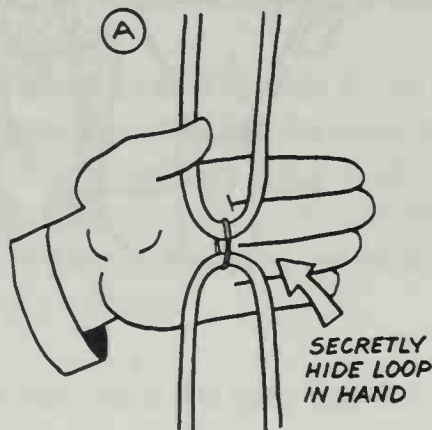
- 2 5-foot pieces of non-elastic cord or light-to-medium rope
- 5-inch piece of thread
- 3 volunteers

Getting Ready

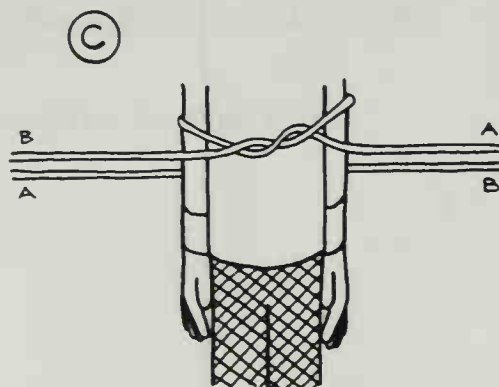
To make this trick work, both cords are folded in half. The thread is used to tie a loop around the two folded ends. The loop is covered, and the illusion of two long, single cords is created. In this trick, you need only a fist to cover the secret loop (A).

Show Time!

1. Have three volunteers stand side by side onstage, facing the audience. The two people on the end should stand forward, closer to the audience.
2. Holding the cords with your fist clasped tightly around the secret loop in the middle, approach the volunteer in the middle.



VIEW FROM BACK



WHAT THE AUDIENCE SEES

-
3. Stand in front of that volunteer with your back to the audience. Bring the cords over the volunteer's head and place them against his or her back. The secret loop should be in the center of the volunteer's back.
 4. Ask the volunteer to hold the cords loosely with both hands at each side.
 5. Give the left ends of the cords to the volunteer on the left and the right ends to the volunteer on the right. The result should look as though the outer volunteers are holding two long cords and the middle volunteer is standing in front of the cords (B).
 6. Take one end from each of the outer volunteers.
 7. Tie the ends loosely around the front of the middle volunteer's waist.
 8. Step 7 will have switched the ends of the cords. Give each switched end to the outer volunteers. The middle one now appears to be bound by the cords (C).
 9. Ask the volunteers holding the ends of the cords to pull hard on the count of three. The middle volunteer will be free from the cords, and the other two will be holding two cords by the opposite ends!



Ribbons Around Us



What You'll Need

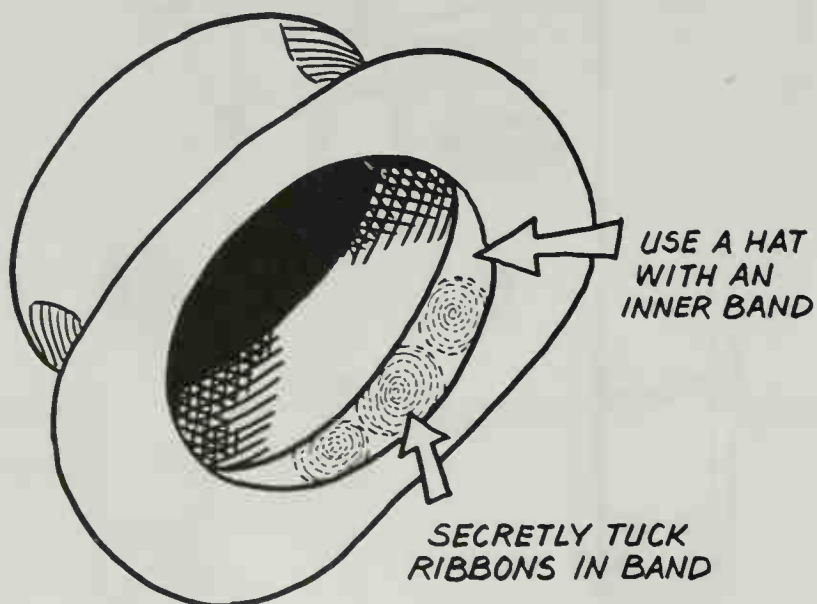
- 2 to 3 tightly wound colored paper ribbon rolls
- hat with an inner band

Getting Ready

Before the magic show begins, tuck all the rolls of ribbon under the band inside the hat.

Show Time!

1. Pick up the hat from the table. Put it on and spin it around, then take it off and show the audience both the inside and the outside. The band should hold the ribbons securely.
2. After everyone is convinced the hat is empty, set it forcefully upside down on the table. The ribbon rolls should drop into the bottom of the hat.
3. Reach into the hat and grab the ends of the rolls. Hold your other hand over the top of the hat and pull the ribbons up through your fingers from your supposedly empty hat!





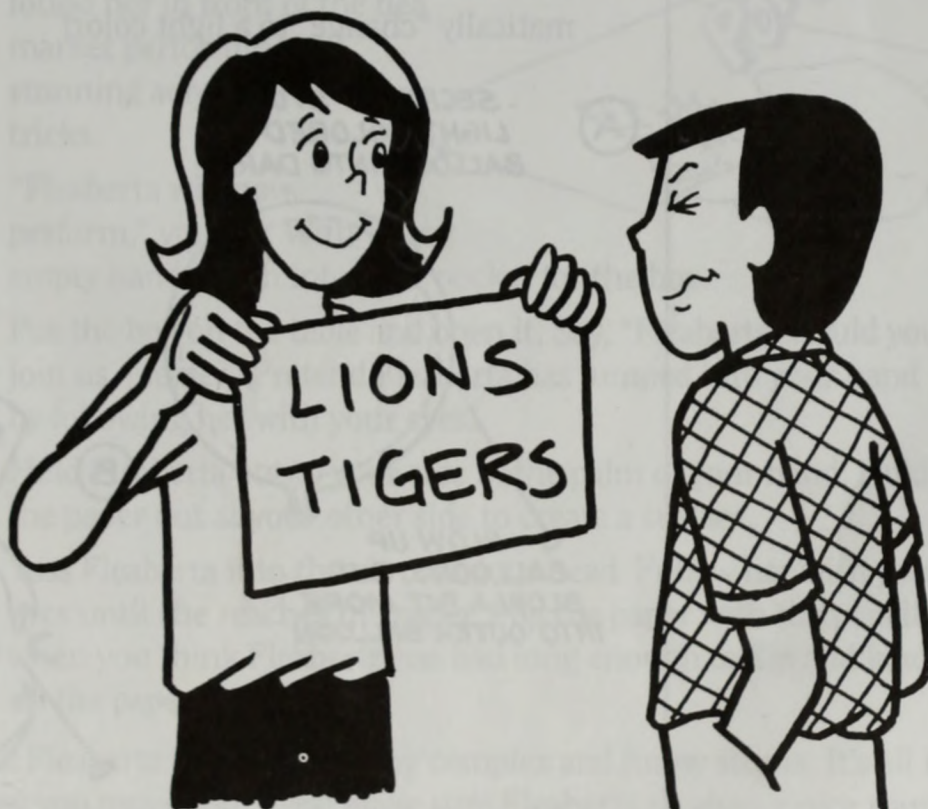
What You'll Need

- paper
- pencil

Show Time!

A member of the audience will see lions and tigers with the mention of just two magic words!

1. Ask a volunteer to stand up in the audience.
2. Tell him that you know two magic words that will make him see lions and tigers. Ask him to close his eyes.
3. While the volunteer's eyes are closed, write the words *lions* and *tigers* on the piece of paper.
4. Tell him to open his eyes. Ask, "What do you see?"
5. The volunteer will have no choice but to say, "Lions and tigers!"





Balloon Magic



What You'll Need

- light-colored balloon and dark-colored balloon (do not inflate them)
- straight pin

Getting Ready

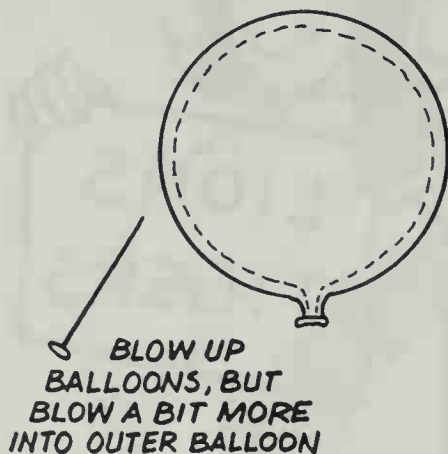
Before your show, stuff the light-colored balloon into the dark one, making sure the mouths of the balloons stay together. Tuck the pin into the sleeve of your jacket.

Show Time!

1. Blow up the two balloons together.
2. Hold the mouth of the inner balloon closed and breathe a little more air into the outer balloon. Pinch both openings tight (A).
3. Hold the balloon up for the audience to see.
4. Casually remove the pin from your sleeve. Pass your hand over the balloon a few times. Pop the outer balloon (B). It will automatically "change" to a light color!

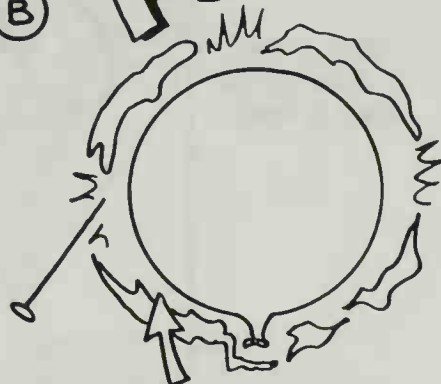
(A)

**SECRETLY STUFF
LIGHT-COLORED
BALLOON INTO DARK**



(B)

POP!



**USE PIN TO
POP OUTER
BALLOON**



What You'll Need

Getting Ready

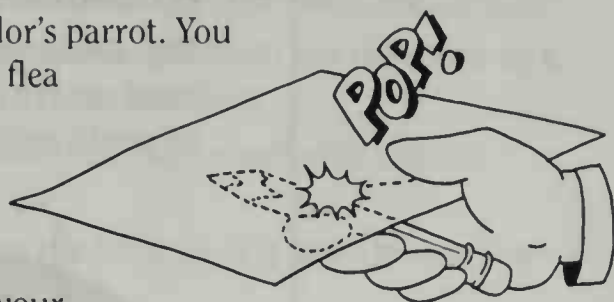
Show Time!

You have trained your pet flea to perform for a live audience!

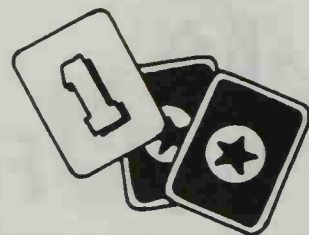
- blank sheet of paper
- wooden pencil
- small box with lid

Preparing for this trick requires a little bit of practice. Hold the paper in your hand with the pencil underneath it. Practice pressing the paper hard against the pencil with your thumb. Slightly moving the paper forward with your thumb will create a small *pop*. Before you go onstage, put the little box in your pocket.

1. Tell a story about your remarkable flea named Fleaberta. The story can be told however you like, but these are the basic elements: Fleaberta is an invisible flea who used to perform with gypsy fleas on pets in France. She traveled here on the back of a sailor's parrot. You found her in front of the flea market performing stunning acrobatic tricks.
2. "Fleaberta will now perform," you say. With your empty hand, reach into your pocket for the box.
3. Put the box on the table and open it. Say, "Fleaberta, would you join us, please?" Pretend Fleaberta has jumped into your hand by following her with your eyes.
4. Hold Fleaberta out to your side in the palm of your hand. Hold the paper out at your other side to create a surface.
5. Toss Fleaberta into the air over your head. Follow her with your eyes until she reaches the paper. Pop the paper with the pencil when you think Fleaberta has had long enough to flip and land on the paper.



Ask Fleaberta to perform many complex and funny stunts. It's all in how you move your eyes! Make sure Fleaberta receives a nice round of applause.



What You'll Need

- wooden pencil
- paper

Show Time!

Another bugged trick! Discover termites in your pencil. Let everyone hear them!

1. Take the pencil from your pocket and get ready to write on the paper.
2. Stop suddenly and hold the pencil to your ear as if you've heard something.
3. Exclaim, "Gee! I thought I had those termites exterminated!"
4. Everyone will look at you as if you're crazy, but try to convince them that there are termites in your pencil. "They *were* exterminated, but now they're back."
5. Pick a volunteer and hold the pencil up to his ear. With your hand next to his ear but away from his vision, scratch the pencil gently with your fingernail. The person *will* hear termites!





What You'll Need

- several paper napkins
- small bucket with handle
- enough small- and medium-sized rocks to fill the bucket

Getting Ready

Test different napkins before performing this trick. Find one that is weak when open and strong when twisted up. Then, fill the bucket with rocks. Set it on the table just before you perform this trick. Unfold all the napkins and pile them up next to the bucket.

Show Time!

1. Ask your audience, "How many of these rocks in the bucket do you think you can lift 12 inches off the table with one napkin?"
2. Let a few volunteers try to do this. Most will put the rocks on a napkin and the napkin will definitely break.
3. Say, "I'll bet I can lift all the rocks in the pail with just one napkin!"
4. Lay an unfolded napkin on the table. Fold it over three or four times to make a thick strip.
5. Twist the strip. The napkin is suddenly much stronger!
6. Slide the napkin under the handle of the bucket and lift.





What You'll Need

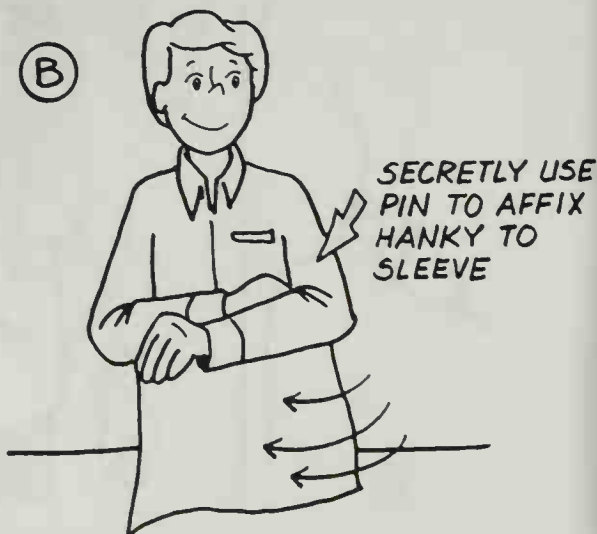
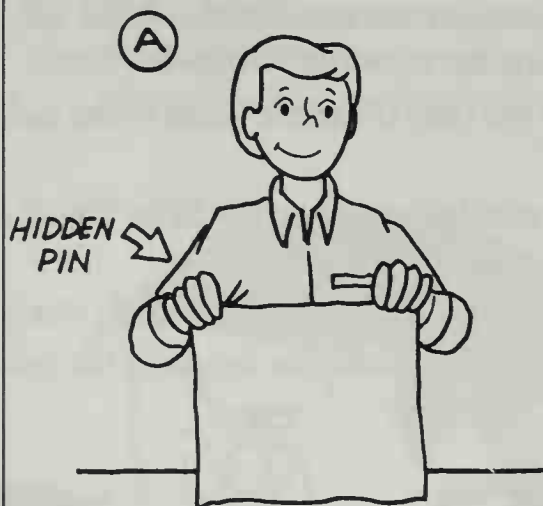
- straight pin
- large handkerchief
- small bell
- deck of cards
- ruler
- set of keys
- pencil

Getting Ready

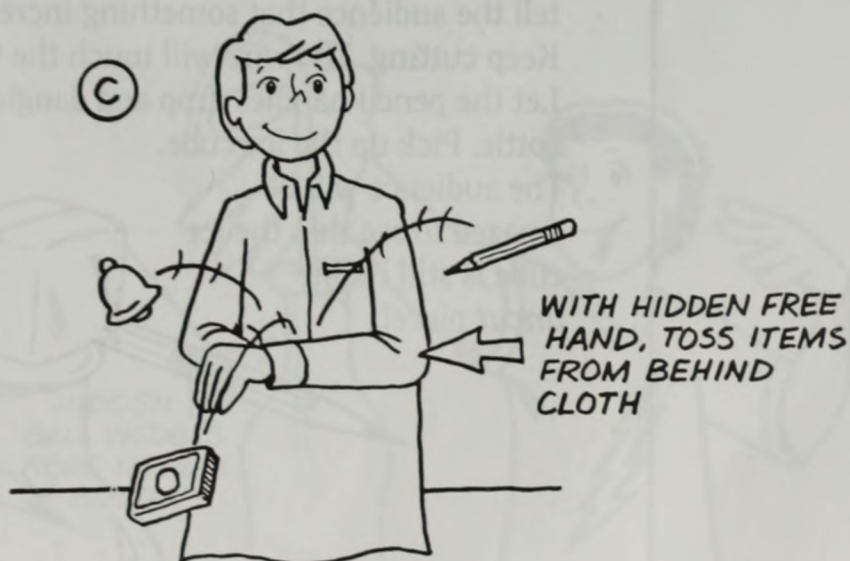
Attach the pin to one corner of the handkerchief. Set all the items, except the handkerchief, on the table in front of you. Place the handkerchief in a bundle next to the pile of objects.

Show Time!

1. Show the various items on the table to the audience.
2. Pick up the handkerchief. Hold the corner with the pin in your right hand and the adjacent corner with your left hand. Keep the pin hidden in your fingertips (A).



3. Holding the handkerchief as described in Step 2, revolve your arms so your right hand moves in toward your left armpit and your left hand moves out toward your right shoulder (B).
4. Lower the handkerchief's bottom edge to the table so that it conceals all the objects behind it.
5. Secretly pull the pin from the corner of the handkerchief with your right hand (this takes practice!) and attach the pin and the corner of the handkerchief to your left sleeve close to your armpit.
6. Tell the audience something really spooky is going to happen ("Now for the *really* spooky part!").
7. Your right hand is now free to move around because the corner of the handkerchief is secretly pinned to your jacket! Toss the items from behind the cloth, over the top, toward the audience (C). They'll howl with delight!
8. To end the trick, simply remove the pin from your sleeve and revolve your arms back to their original position. The spooks are gone!





Ice Slice



What You'll Need

Getting Ready

Show Time!

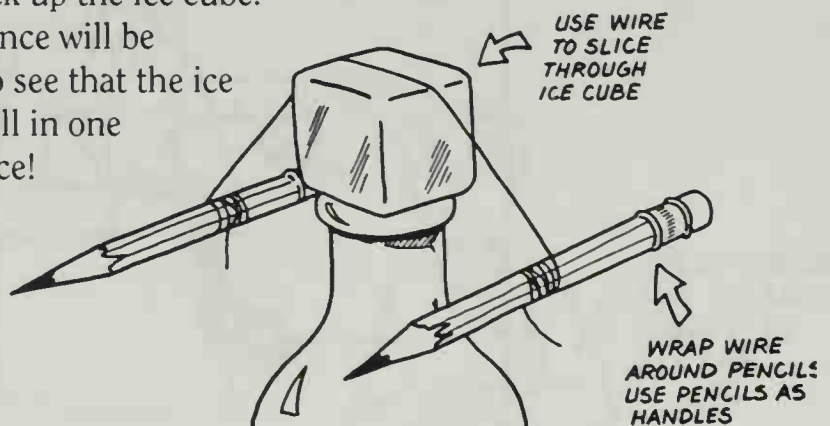
Cut a piece of ice in two, but see it remain in one single piece!

- ice cube (kept in the freezer until you are ready to use it)
- 2 pencils
- piece of thin, strong wire 9 to 12 inches long
- empty glass bottle, such as a soft drink or ketchup bottle

To make a tool to slice your ice cube, take a pencil and wrap one end of the wire around the middle several times. Take the other pencil and do the same thing with the other end of the wire. The wire will slice the ice, and the pencils will serve as grips or handles.

1. Take the ice cube from the freezer and place it on top of the empty bottle. Place the wire over the top of the ice cube so that it will slice through the middle of the cube.
2. Slowly, pull the wire down through the ice cube by firmly holding the pencil handles. It should take three to seven minutes to cut through the ice. Have your assistant hold on to the bottom of the bottle to help steady it. In the meantime, tell a joke or build the suspense by being quiet. A drum roll is effective!
3. Once the wire is close to cutting all the way through the ice, tell the audience that something incredible is about to happen. Keep cutting. The wire will touch the top of the glass bottle. Let the pencil handles drop and dangle from either side of the bottle. Pick up the ice cube.

The audience will be amazed to see that the ice cube is still in one *uncut* piece!



NOTE: The trick is to allow enough time to let the ice *refreeze* after the wire has cut through it. Don't become impatient and cut too fast!



What You'll Need

- opaque paint
- paintbrush
- glass bottle
- small rubber ball
- 1 to 2 feet of thin cord or rope

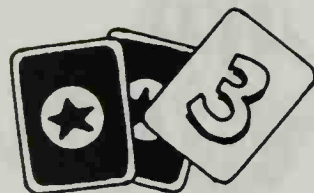
Getting Ready

Paint the bottle to make it totally opaque. Find a ball that, when placed side by side with the rope, will equal the diameter of the neck of the bottle. Slip the ball into the bottle before you perform this trick.

Show Time!

1. Hold the bottle in one hand in front of the audience.
2. At the same time, hold the rope in your other hand.
3. Lower the rope into the bottle, slowly turning the bottle upside down. The ball will fall into the neck of the bottle and wedge against the rope.
4. Pull the rope out toward you just slightly. This will tighten the wedge inside.
5. Take the free end of the rope and hold it up. The bottle will magically hang from the rope without falling!





What You'll Need

Getting Ready

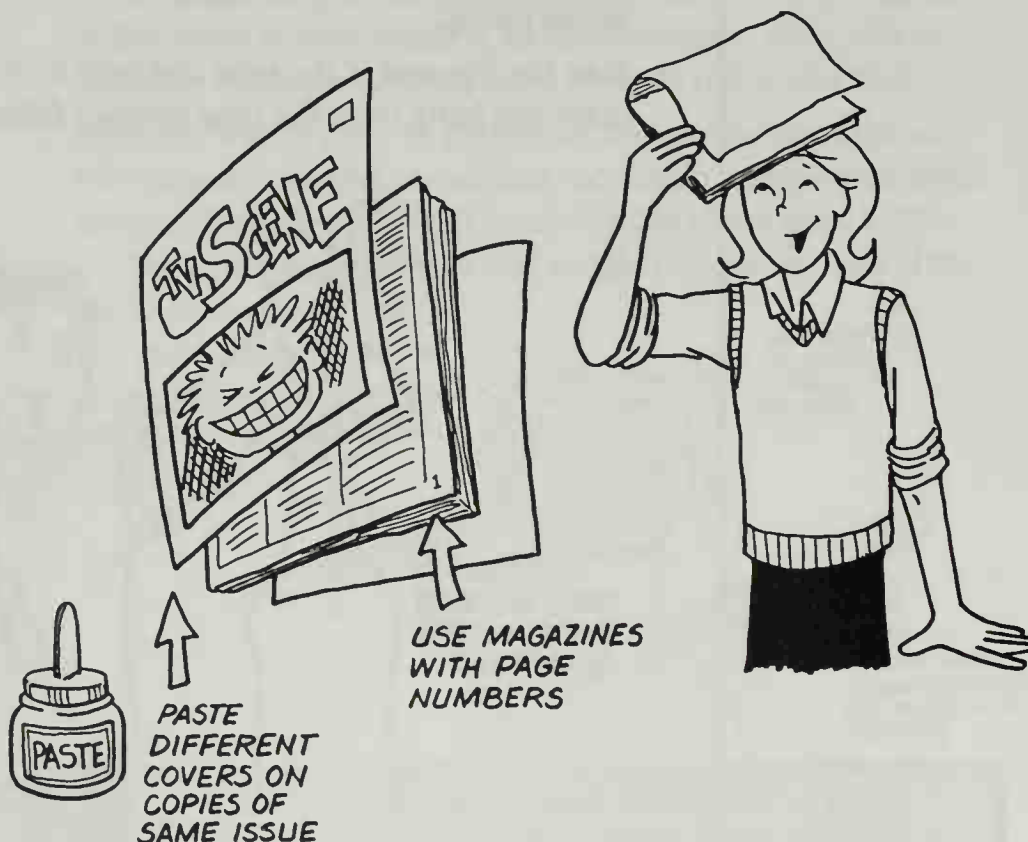
Show Time!

Learn how to be a mind reader in this deceptive magic trick!

- 5 to 6 different issues of the same magazine
- 5 to 6 copies of *one* issue of the *same* magazine
- scissors
- paste

Before you perform this trick, find a magazine with page numbers. Cut off the front and back covers from all the different issues. Carefully paste the different covers onto the copies of the same issue. Place the "glued" magazines on the table in a pile when you are ready to perform the trick.

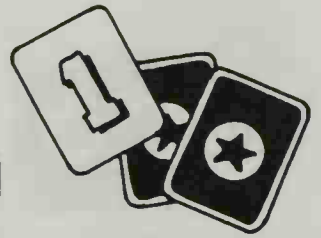
1. Invite a volunteer to pick up any of the magazines lying on the table.
2. Ask her to look at the last page number in that particular issue. Have her choose a number between one and the last page number and tell you that number.



Some Enchanted Finger Frictions

3. Pick up another magazine from the pile as if you are going to demonstrate to the volunteer what you want her to do. Make sure she sees only the cover of your magazine so she'll think it's indeed a different issue than the one she picked.
4. Ask her to turn to the page number she selected. Remind her what it is. Say, "Please concentrate very hard as you look at that page. Hold it to your head." Demonstrate how it should be done by opening the magazine to the page that was picked and glancing over it quickly, remembering photos and headlines.
5. As your volunteer holds the magazine to her head, pretend to be able to read her mind.
6. She'll be awfully surprised when you're able to give brief details of the page that she picked!



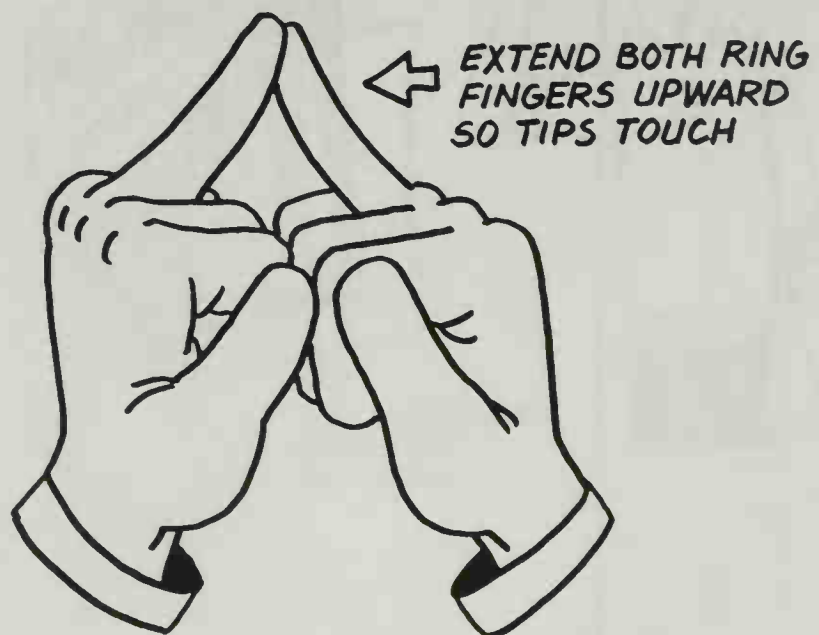


Show Time!

With the mere wave of a wand, freeze an unsuspecting volunteer's fingers together! This is a great beginner's magic trick and most people love to be included in it. It is a great crowd gatherer. Try this one on your friends at school!

1. Ask a friend to volunteer. "It's for an experiment!" you say.
2. Tell your friend to make fists and put them together, palms down, knuckle to knuckle.
3. Ask her to extend both ring fingers upward so their tips touch. The knuckles should still be touching. This is not an easy move for most. It may take awhile.
4. Wave your hands or magic wand over your friend's hands. Say, "You now have been drained of all power from your ring fingers." (You can laugh devilishly for added effect.)
5. What you see next is hilarious. Nothing happens! It is impossible to move the two fingers apart!

NOTE: This trick is even funnier if you have several volunteers at one time—try your whole classroom!





What You'll Need

Getting Ready

Show Time!

Lift a salt shaker magically into the air without using your fingertips!

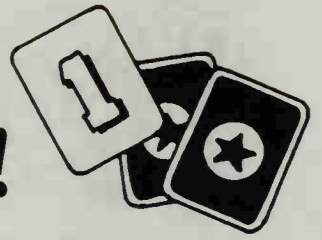
- ring for your ring finger
- toothpick
- salt shaker

Put the ring on. Hide the toothpick by tucking the end of it under the ring on the inside of your finger. Place the salt shaker on the table.

1. Slowly lower your hand, palm down, over the salt shaker on the table. Insert the secret toothpick firmly into one of the holes in the cap.
2. The back of your hand will be facing the audience to conceal the toothpick. Your fingertips should point down toward the table.
3. Pretend to levitate the salt shaker with your fingertips. The toothpick will stay in the shaker hole if it is jammed in tightly. This will mesmerize your audience!



**SECRETLY INSERT
TOOTHPICK INTO
ONE OF THE HOLES
IN THE CAP**



What You'll Need

- carrot
- knife
- handkerchief

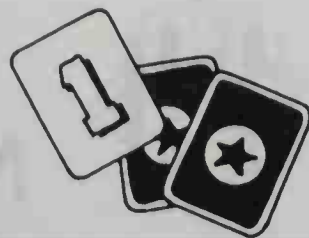
Getting Ready

Find a carrot with a tip that is about the size of your thumb. Carefully cut a length of the carrot that matches the length of your thumb and hide it in your fist.

Show Time!

1. Cover your fist with the handkerchief.
2. Poke the carrot up so it looks like your thumb under the handkerchief.
3. Ask someone to please hold your thumb through the handkerchief.
4. Once he has a good grasp of it, simply walk away with your thumb tucked into your palm. He's left holding what he thinks is your thumb!





What You'll Need

Getting Ready

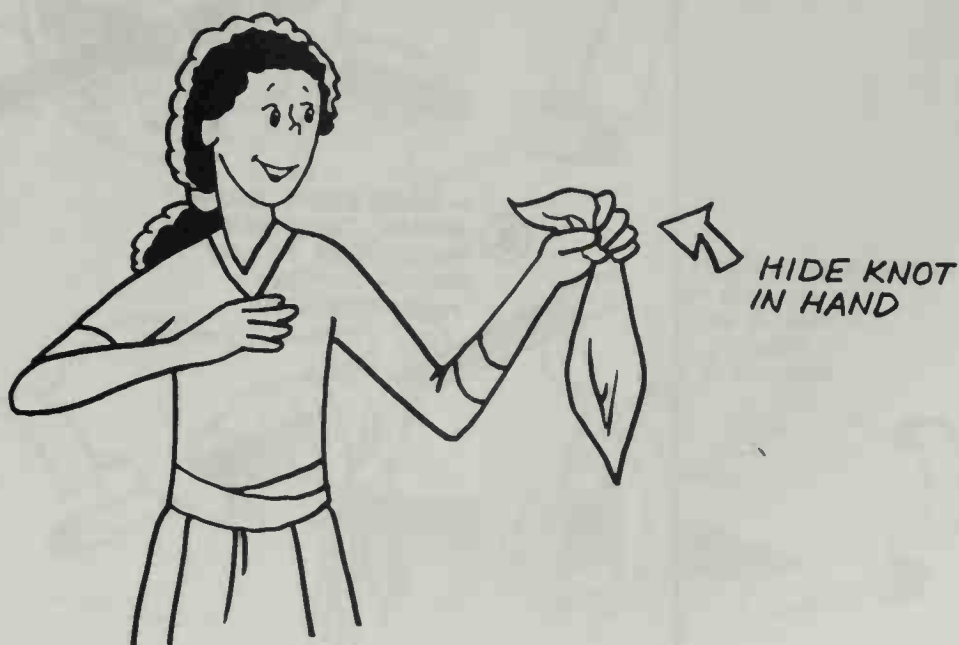
Show Time!

This amazing trick is easy but makes you look like a genius!

- 1 silky handkerchief

Before the magic show begins, tie a tight knot in one corner of the handkerchief.

1. Hold the handkerchief by its knotted corner, hiding the knot in your thumb and fingers.
2. Point to the lower end of the handkerchief, saying that you can shake the handkerchief so hard, its free corner will knot back up on itself.
3. Bring the free corner up to your fingertips and the hidden corner. Shake the free end back down again.
4. Repeat Step 3 three or four times.
5. The last time you do this, shake the handkerchief extra hard, and release the knotted end instead. This move fools everyone. The audience will be astounded.





What You'll Need

Getting Ready

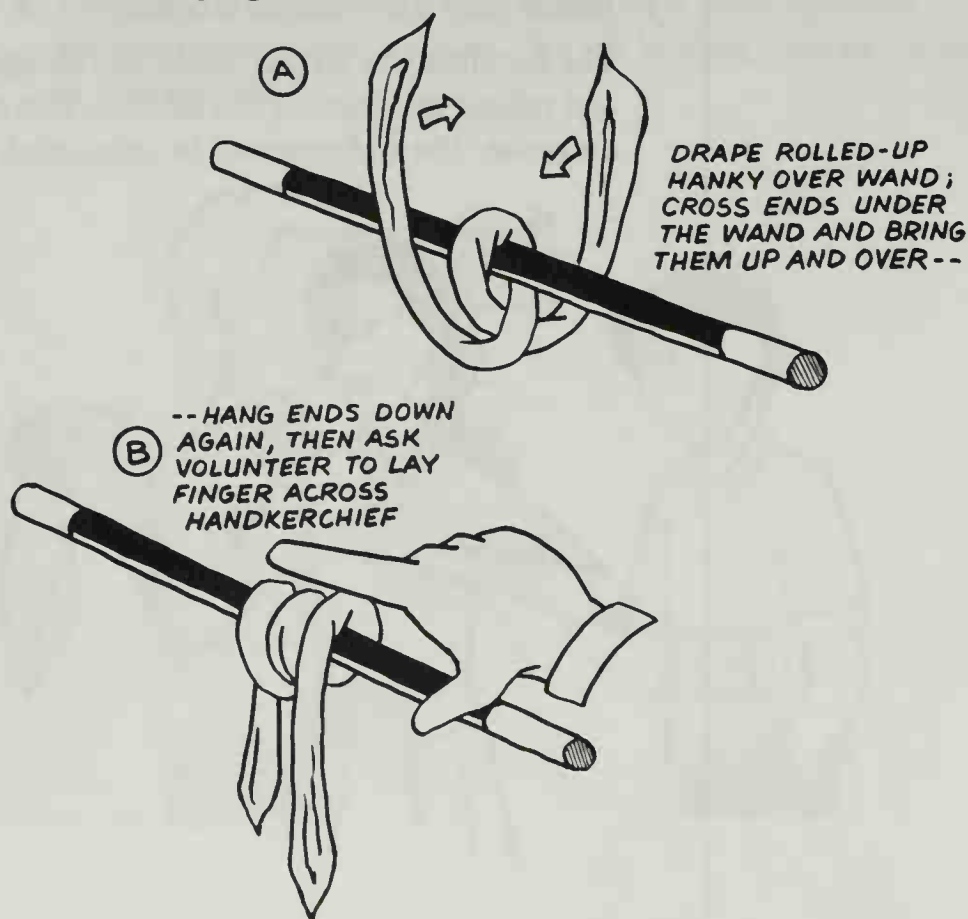
Show Time!

This amazing little knot trick will keep your friends guessing for a long time!

- magic wand
- handkerchief

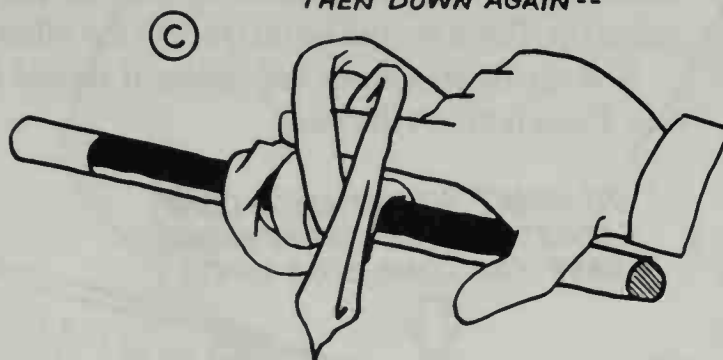
A magic wand can easily be made from the cardboard tube that is found on most hangers that come from the dry cleaner. Paint the tube black. Make white tips at both ends with white tape or construction paper. Glue thumbtacks to the ends to give your wand "tap-ability." Sprinkle on a little glitter or give it a nice shiny coat of varnish.

1. Ask a volunteer to help you undo a "double-twisting-sidewinding knot."
2. Have her hold one end of the wand and point the other at you while keeping it level.

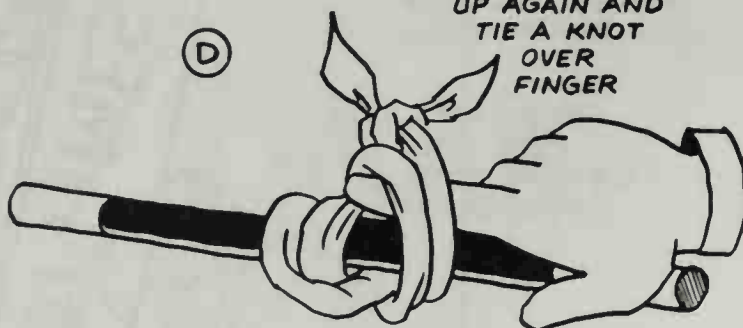


3. Take the handkerchief by one corner and roll it up tightly.
4. Drape the rolled handkerchief over the wand so both ends hang evenly.
5. Cross the ends underneath the wand, and bring them up and over the wand, so the ends hang down again (A).
6. Ask your volunteer to please lay her finger along the wand over the handkerchief (B).
7. Repeat Step 5, but this time in the opposite direction. Bring the ends up and over your volunteer's finger, across, and down again (C), then up again so you can tie a knot over her finger (D).
8. Say, "By the time my helper moves her finger, this knot will have magically dissolved."
9. Hold the knot on top of the volunteer's finger and the loose end of your wand as well.
10. Ask her to pull her finger away quickly. Presto! No knot!

GOING IN THE OPPOSITE
DIRECTION, BRING ENDS UP
OVER FINGER, CROSS, AND
THEN DOWN AGAIN--



-- THEN BRING ENDS
UP AGAIN AND
TIE A KNOT
OVER
FINGER





What You'll Need

Getting Ready

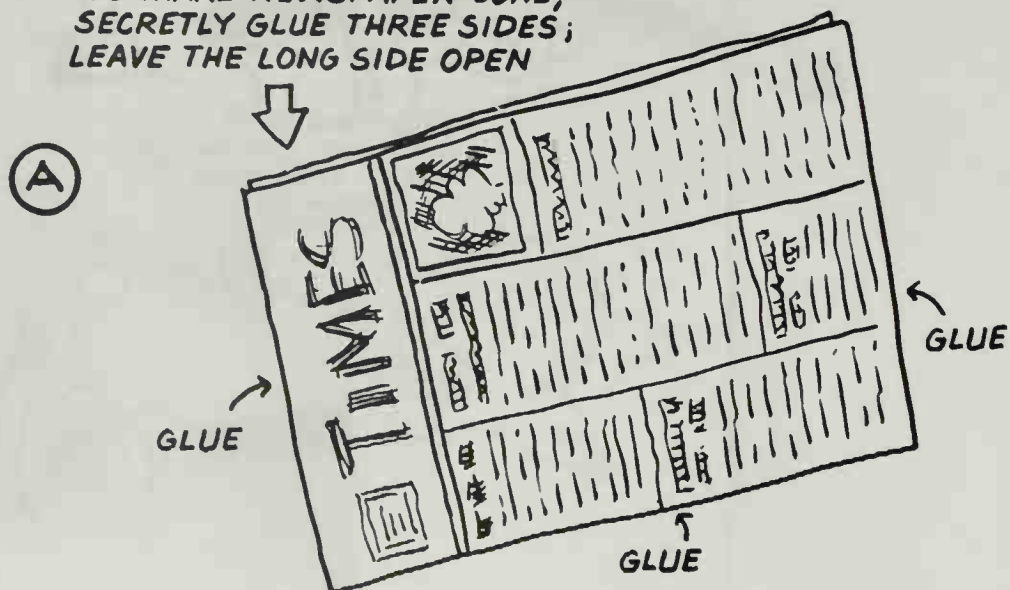
In this complex trick, you will make a colorful handkerchief not only jump from one location to another but reappear tied between two other handkerchiefs!

- glue
- 2 single sheets of newspaper
- whole newspaper
- 2 large red handkerchiefs
- 2 identical multicolored handkerchiefs or scarves with red borders
- empty goblet

Make a secret envelope by gluing three sides of the single sheets of newspaper together. Leave a long side open (A). Place your newspaper "envelope" into the whole newspaper so it fits in normally, and keep it handy for the performance. To prepare the handkerchief, follow these directions and look carefully at the illustrations. First, take one corner of a red handkerchief and tie it to a corner of a multicolored handkerchief (B). Pick them up by the knot. Next, lay the two handkerchiefs on a table, with the multicolored hanky on top. Now, roll up the multicolored hanky lengthwise (C). Fold the roll back over itself so only the red border protrudes beyond the knot (D). Finally, roll up the red handkerchief around the folded part (E). The final result should look like one red hanky rolled up. There should be no trace of the other one.

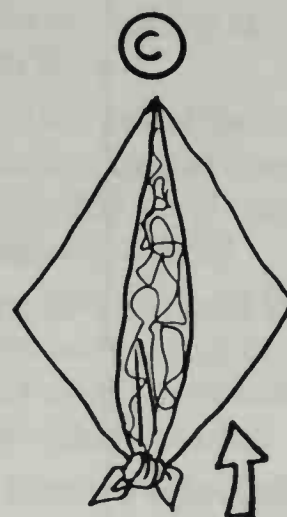
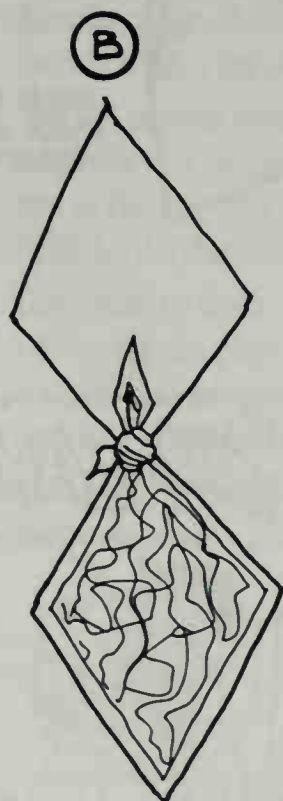
Roll up the remaining red hanky. It should look like the other one. Place both on the table.

*TO MAKE NEWSPAPER CONE,
SECRETLY GLUE THREE SIDES;
LEAVE THE LONG SIDE OPEN*



Show Time!

1. Hold the "magic" hanky in one hand with your thumb and forefinger around the knot. Hold the other red hanky in your other hand about one inch from the top corner. The two hankies should look exactly the same.
2. Tie the top corners of the hankies together. (The multicolored one should still be hidden inside.)
3. Wad the "two" hankies together, and stuff them into the empty goblet (F).
4. Next, you need to make a paper cone. Naturally, you reach into your handy newspaper and pull out the ordinary-looking single sheet of newspaper that you previously turned into a secret envelope.
5. Roll this sheet into a cone and hang on to it with one hand.
6. Take the remaining multicolored handkerchief, fold it in quarters neatly with your free hand, and pretend to slip it into the cone, but actually slip it into the big pocket you created.



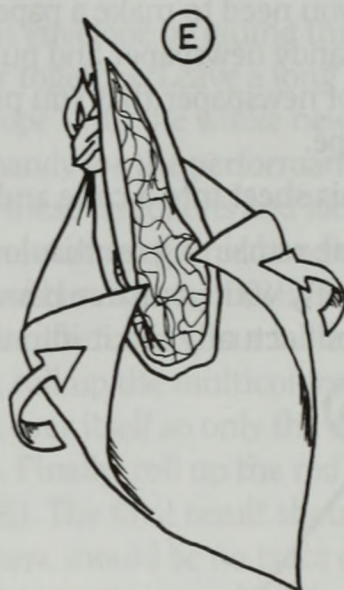
ROLL UP MULTI-COLORED HANKY LENGTHWISE...



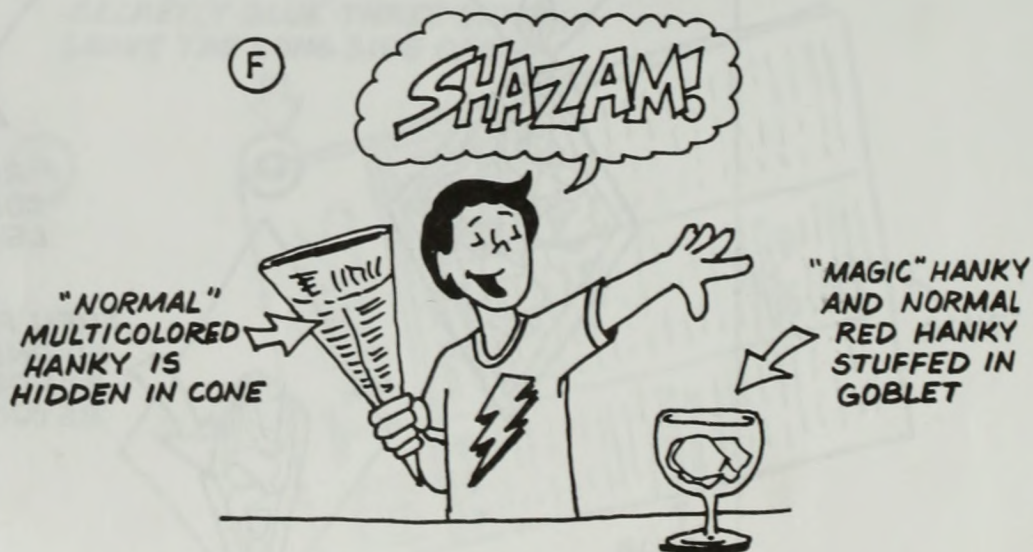
...THEN FOLD OVER SO ONLY RED BORDER PROTRU BEYOND KNOT

Presto Hanky

7. Tell the audience that with the magic word *Shazam!* you will make the hanky in the cone join the red hankies in the goblet.
8. Reach into the goblet and quickly pull out one free corner of the hankies. The multicolored one will amazingly be tied between the red hankies!
9. Unroll the newspaper cone and show both sides of it. There will be no trace of the other multicolored handkerchief!



**FOLD RED HANKY
OVER MULTICOLORED
HANKY**





The Ching-Chang Basket



What You'll Need

Getting Ready

Show Time!

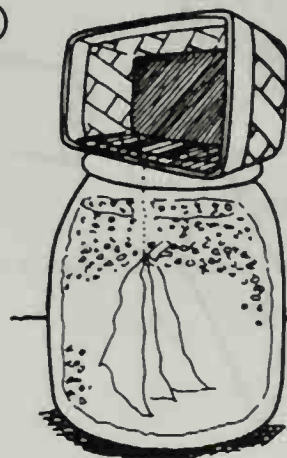
With the mystical ching-chang basket, turn paper confetti into silk handkerchiefs!

- large glass jar
- brightly colored paper confetti
- black thread
- scissors
- shallow basket
- 4 or 5 silky handkerchiefs

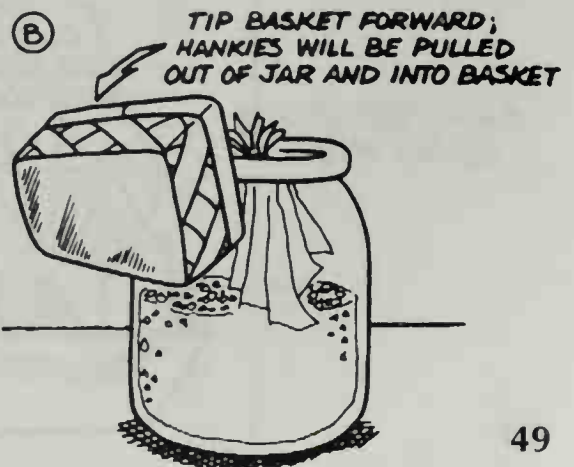
Fill the glass jar $\frac{3}{4}$ full with confetti. Tie one end of the thread to the edge of the basket. Cut the thread so that it is $\frac{3}{4}$ the diameter of the basket opening. Next, bundle up the handkerchiefs and tie the other end of the thread around them. Hide the bundle of handkerchiefs in the confetti in the jar. Set the basket right side up on top of the jar.

1. Pick up the basket in both hands and hold its open side toward the audience. The black thread will hang into the jar from the *bottom* edge of the basket. The audience will see just an empty basket with a jar of confetti underneath it (A).
2. Tip the basket forward, until its underside is facing the audience. As you do this, lower the basket so its edge just covers the top of the jar. The handkerchiefs will be pulled out of the jar and tipped into the basket without the audience seeing (B).
3. Continue to turn the basket in the same direction until it is right side up. Now hold the basket in the palm of your hand. Reach into the jar with your free hand. Pull out some confetti and toss it in the air so it sprinkles down into the basket.
4. Pull out the handkerchiefs one by one from the supposedly empty basket!

(A)



(B)





The Turning Box



What You'll Need

Getting Ready

Show Time!

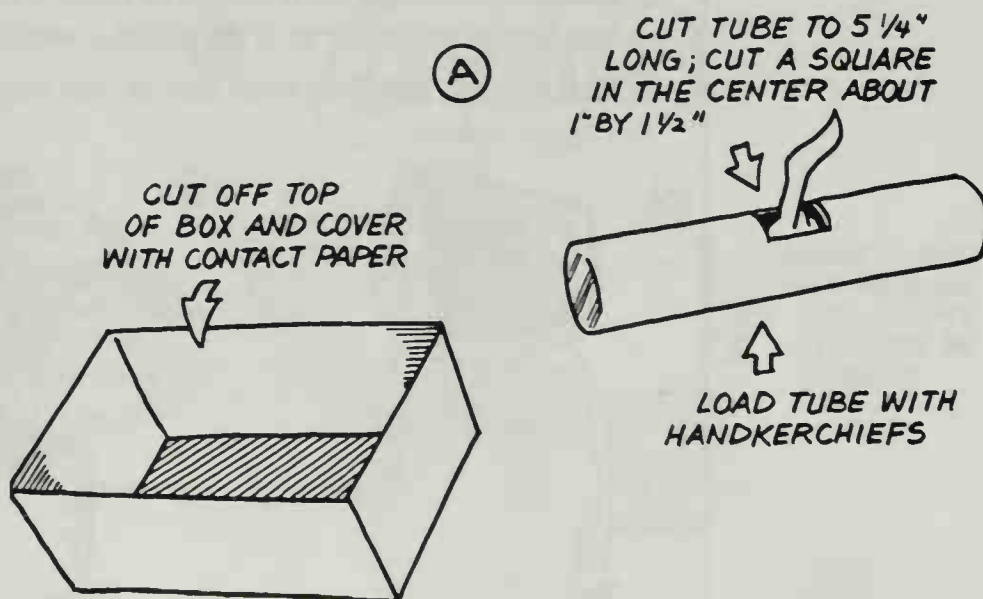
The magical turning box is a source of great bewilderment to an unsuspecting audience. In this trick you will show your audience an empty box, both inside and out. Then, with a couple of turns, you will mysteriously pull out six handkerchiefs!

- scissors
- rectangular tissue box
- contact paper
- paper-towel tube
- adhesive tape
- 6 large silky handkerchiefs

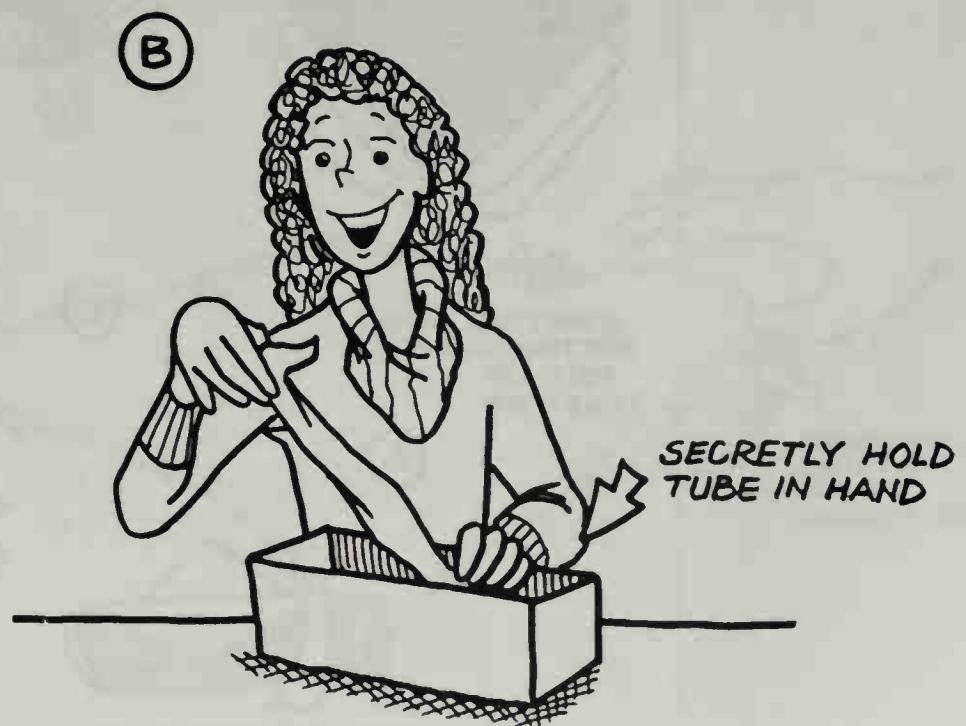
To make the box, cut off the top of the tissue box. Cover it completely, both inside and out, with the contact paper (A). To assemble the device that makes this trick a success, cut the paper-towel tube down to 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches long. Cover it completely with the same contact paper. Carefully cut a square in the middle of the tube about 1 inch by 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Seal the ends of the tube with adhesive tape. Cover the tape with contact paper and neatly trim the edges.

Next, tie the ends of the handkerchiefs together and put them into the tube one by one through the square opening (A). Put the tube inside the tissue box.

1. Hold the box between your hands, mouth up, and tube inside.
2. Gently set the box on the table.
3. Tilt the box toward you with your left hand without lifting the box from the table. The mouth of the box should begin to face you, while the bottom faces the audience.

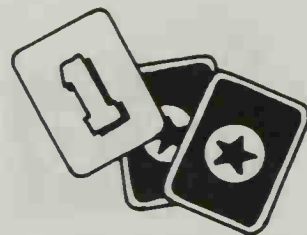


4. Tip it a little more. The tube should roll out right in front of you. Block it with your left thumb so it doesn't roll too far. Meanwhile, tap the bottom of the box with your right hand to show that there is nothing hidden. This move draws the audience's attention away from your other hand.
5. Tip the box back to its original position. The tube is now *outside* the box, hidden behind it.
6. Tilt the box toward the audience to show its inside. The best way to do this is to slide the front bottom edge back toward yourself so you don't reveal the tube.
7. Keep turning the box in the same direction until the opening is facing you again.
8. Roll the tube back in the box with your left thumb.
9. Lift the box and place it in your right palm.
10. Reach in with your left hand, and use your fingers to hold the tube against the back side of the box.
11. Holding the box this way in your *left* hand now, reach in with your right hand and pull out the six handkerchiefs one at a time (B)!





Out of Order



What You'll Need

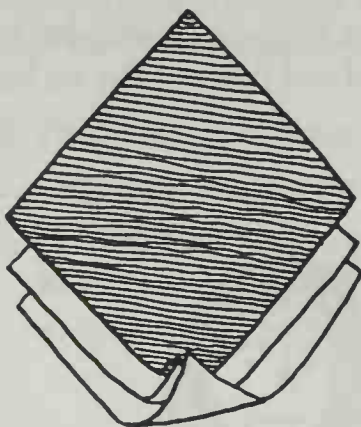
Show Time!

Roll up three hankies in a special order. Unroll them and they will be lined up differently!

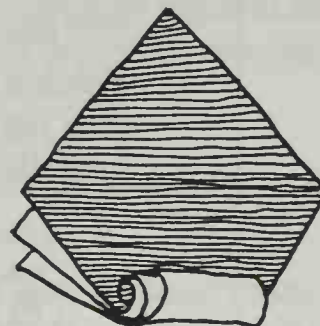
- 3 different-colored handkerchiefs or cloth napkins

1. Place the hankies on a table, one on top of the other.
2. Roll them up together, starting with the hanky at the bottom of the stack (A).
3. Once two ends have flipped over as you roll them up, unroll the hankies (B). Their positions have magically changed (C)!
4. Roll them up again the same way, let *one* end flip over, and the positions will change again!

(A)



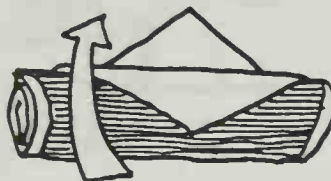
STARTING WITH
BOTTOM HANKY,
ROLL UP
TOGETHER



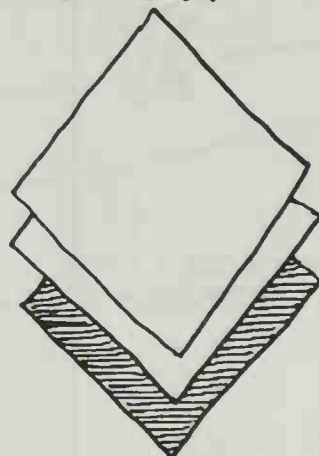
(C)

WHEN UNROLLED,
THE POSITIONS HAVE
CHANGED!

(B)



WHEN TWO ENDS HAVE
FLIPPED OVER, THEN
UNROLL





What You'll Need

Getting Ready

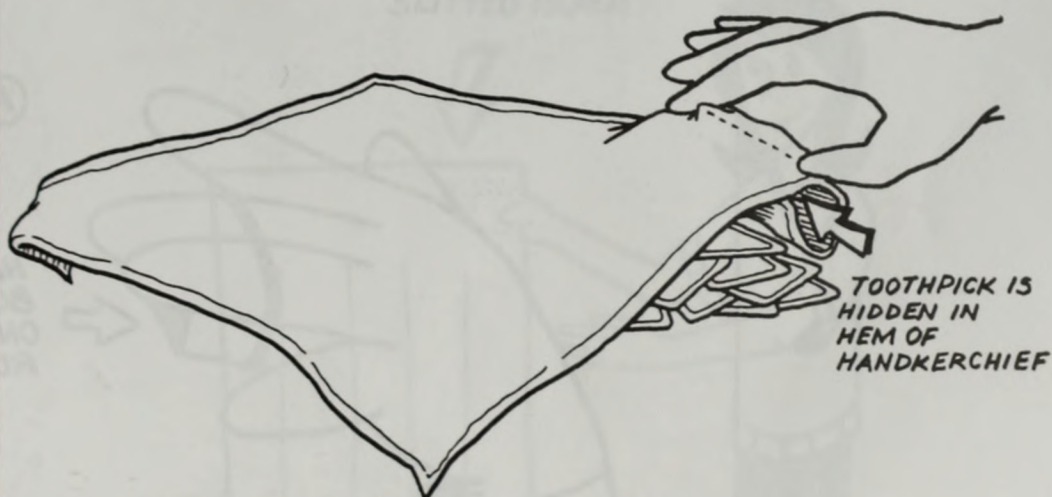
Show Time!

Here's a quick handkerchief trick to dazzle your friends!

- scissors
- toothpick
- deck of cards
- handkerchief with a hem

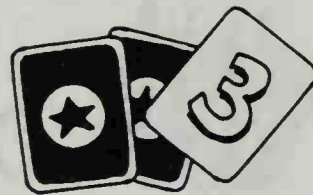
Cut the toothpick to make it the same length as the *width* of a playing card. Poke it into the hem of the handkerchief.

1. Spread out the deck of cards on the table.
2. Lay the handkerchief on top of the cards so that the edge with the toothpick in it is casually folded *underneath* the handkerchief.
3. Pick up the toothpick through the handkerchief with one hand. Hold one end between your thumb and forefinger. This will look as though you have picked up one of the cards!
4. Toss the handkerchief into the air and say, "Presto!" The card completely vanishes!





Good News!



What You'll Need

Getting Ready

Show Time!

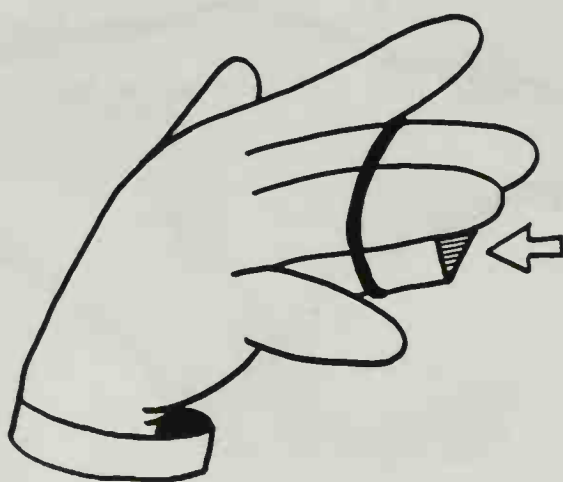
Spread some fun and good news with this sneaky newspaper trick!

- scissors
- empty sliding drawer box (matchbox style)
- 4 small silky handkerchiefs (red, yellow, green, blue)
- rubber band
- single sheet of newspaper

First, cut one end off the drawer part of the box. Slide the cover back into place. Stuff the four handkerchiefs into the box through its new opening. Now place the rubber band around the width of the box. To prepare the newspaper for this trick, cut four slits in the sheet in different places. They should be just big enough for a handkerchief to be pulled through them.

Before you perform the trick, place the box under the newspaper on a table.

1. Begin by talking about the news. Using your left arm to gesture with and draw the audience's attention, slide your right hand under the newspaper, palm down, on top of the box.
2. While you continue talking about the news, slide the middle fingers of your right hand between the rubber band and the box. The opening of the box should point toward your fingertips (A).



(A)

**HANKY-STUFFED
BOX IS SLIPPED
ONTO PALM WITH
RUBBER BAND**

3. Sliding your right hand out from under the newspaper, grasp the paper between your thumb and fingers. If you hold the paper near the top in this manner, out to your right side, no one will have seen the box attached to your palm or the rubber band (B).
4. With your left hand, point to different stories on the newspaper page. Trace your finger along the cuts in the paper as if you were reading. (Do indeed read from the paper, but add your own last line to each story. You can use these endings or make up your own.)
5. As you get to your new ending of each story, reach into the cut on the paper and pull out a handkerchief! Remember in what order you put them in the box so you will know the order in which they will come out.

The endings: "So it turns out that everything ended up *rosy*!" (Pull out red handkerchief.)

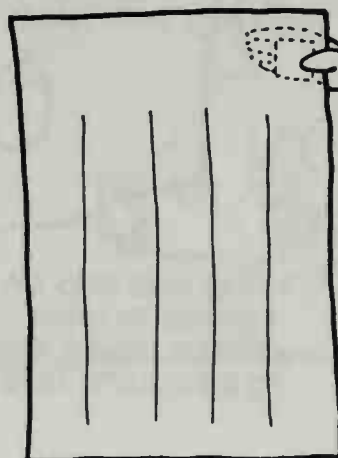
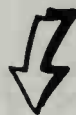
"And they were *green* with envy!" (Pull out green handkerchief.)

"That car was a total *lemon*!" (Pull out the yellow handkerchief.)

"The Bobcats keep losing. They must really have the *blues*!" (Pull out the blue handkerchief.)

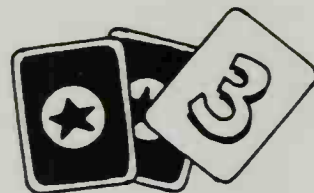
(B)

BOX IS
"PALMED"
AND HIDDEN
BEHIND
SLITTED PAPER





Eggsibit



What You'll Need

Getting Ready

Show Time!

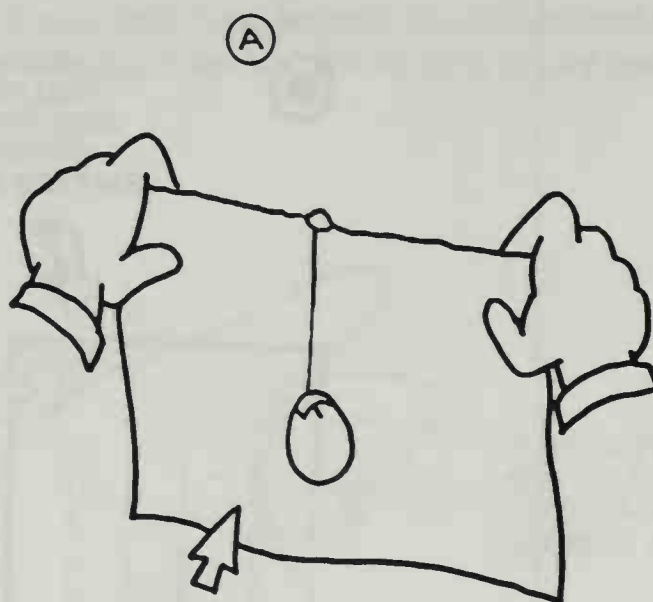
Put an egg in a hat and make it disappear!

- needle
- thread
- handkerchief
- adhesive tape
- empty eggshell (you can find these at major shops, or maybe Mom or Dad knows how to "blow out" the contents of an egg)

Using the needle, tie one end of the thread to the edge of the handkerchief, right in between two corners. Attach the other end of the thread to the egg with the tape. The egg should hang almost $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way down the handkerchief (A).

Set the hat upside down on the table. Crumple up the handkerchief around the egg to hide it, and place it next to the hat.

1. Show the audience the empty hat, inside and out.
2. Lift the handkerchief by its corners so that the attached egg is on *your* side of the handkerchief.

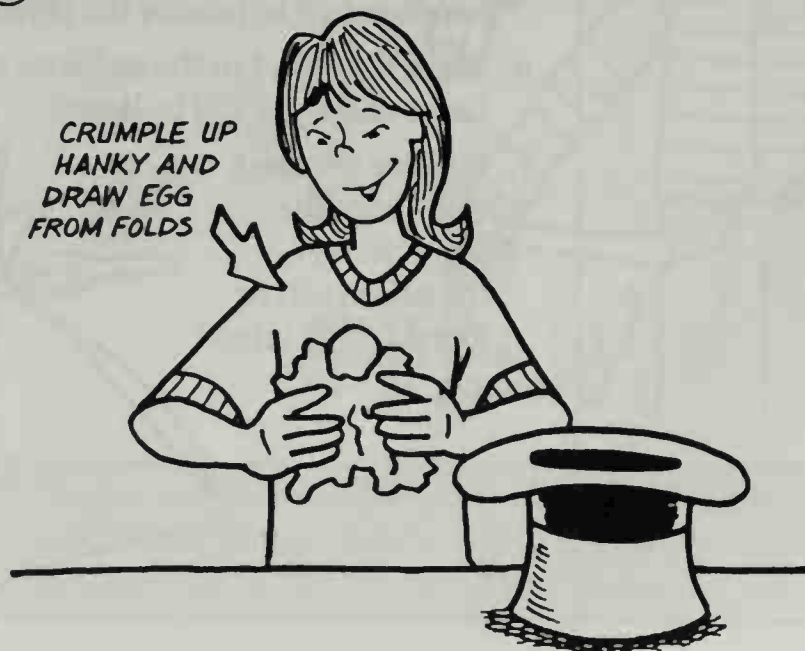


TIE ONE END OF
THREAD TO HANKY;
ATTACH OTHER END
TO EGG WITH TAPE

3. Crumple up the handkerchief again and then draw the egg up from its folds (B). Show the audience that the egg has magically appeared!
4. Next, gently place the egg in the hat with the handkerchief around it.
5. Remove the handkerchief from the hat, again holding its upper corners with the egg facing you. No one will know the egg is there.
6. Repeat Steps 3, 4, and 5 two more times.
7. Say, "I'm sure you think there were three eggs hidden in here," pointing to the hat.
8. Since you've been placing each egg that "magically" appeared in the hat, surely everyone thinks that's where they are. You now say, "Well, they are . . . *not!*" Turn the hat over as you say this. Of course, there will be no eggs in it!
9. You can plan a surprise ending for this trick. Look all over for the eggs. Lift up the handkerchief to look under it, and "accidentally" (but really on purpose) show the audience the string and the egg. Say, "Gotcha!" Your audience will appreciate being let in on one trick.

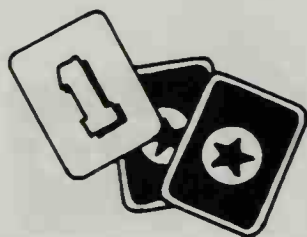
(B)

CRUMPLE UP
HANKY AND
DRAW EGG
FROM FOLDS





Break Out!



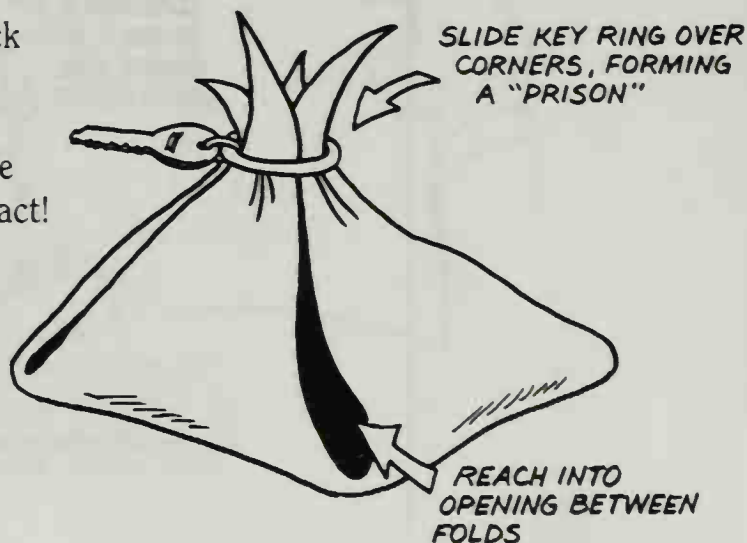
What You'll Need

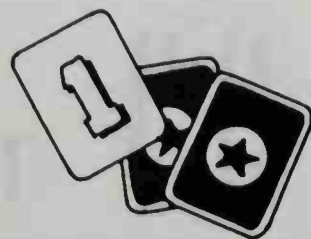
Show Time!

Just like Houdini, but on a smaller scale, remove an object from a maximum security handkerchief! This trick even stuns volunteers from the audience.

- man's large handkerchief
- small object borrowed from the audience or supplied by you
- key ring, 1 inch in diameter
- large piece of black cloth

1. Show the audience both sides of the open handkerchief. Tell them you will trap an object in this handkerchief and then attempt to remove it by mystical means.
2. Lay the handkerchief on the table. Ask someone in the audience for a ring, a key, or a dime. Place the object in the center of the open handkerchief. Draw together the far corners around it.
3. Put the key ring over the top of the corners, forming a little "prison" for the object.
4. Invite four members of the audience to help you "secure" the prison. Each volunteer should take hold of one corner of the handkerchief and hold on to it tightly.
5. Drape the large black cloth over the handkerchief prison and the volunteers' hands. The magic moment: Simply reach under the black cloth and into the opening between the folds of the handkerchief to remove the object.
6. Show the object to the audience and the surprised volunteers. Gasps of delight will be heard!
7. Remove the black cloth from the handkerchief—the prison will be found totally intact!





What You'll Need

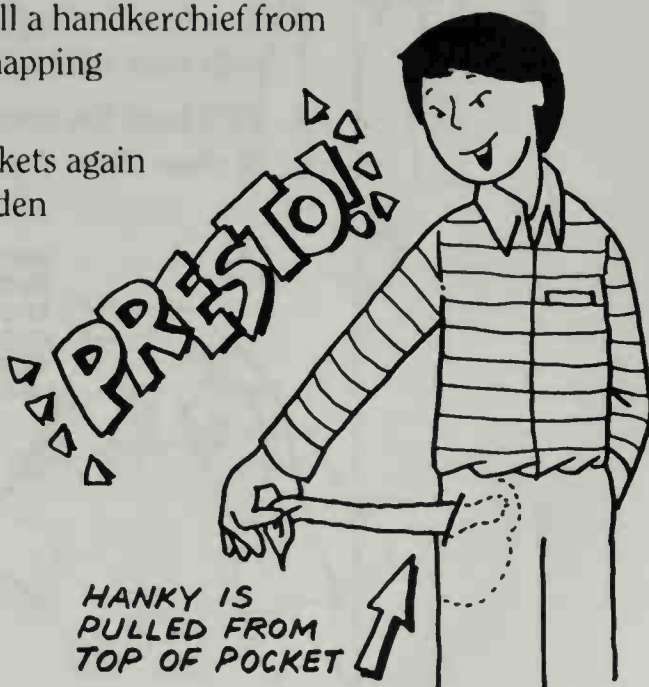
- a very large silky handkerchief
- a pair of your pants with front pockets

Getting Ready

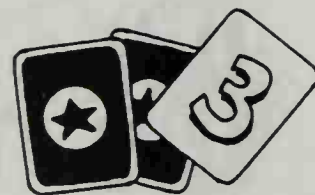
All you have to do to get ready is examine your front pants pockets. Most pants have deep pockets, but they also have a rather large space of fabric in the upper corner that goes all the way to the zipper or buttons. What a super place to hide things! Wad or fold up the handkerchief and stuff it into this extra space before you perform this trick.

Show Time!

1. Say to the audience, "I have nothing in my hands. I have nothing in my pockets." And then to prove it, turn your pockets inside out. (You can only pull out the deep part.)
2. Stuff your pockets back inside your pants. Say, "I can pull a handkerchief from my pocket just by snapping my fingers."
3. Reach into your pockets again and pull out the hidden handkerchief.



NOTE: As you grasp the handkerchief, reach way down to the bottom of your pocket, so it looks as if the handkerchief came from the *bottom*, not the top, of your pocket.



What You'll Need

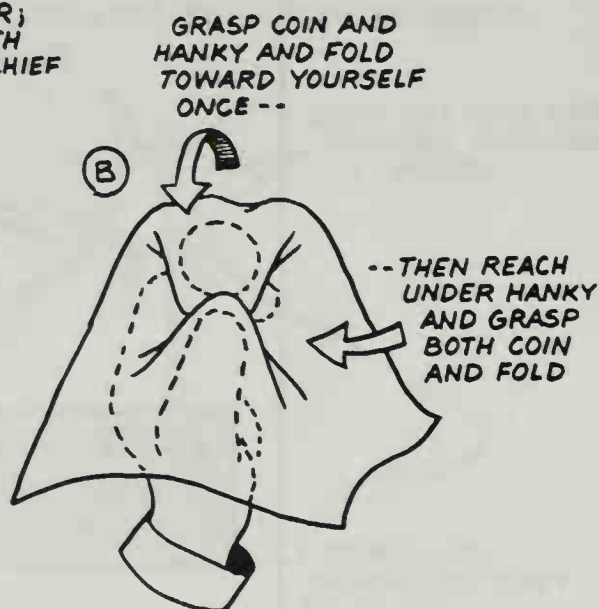
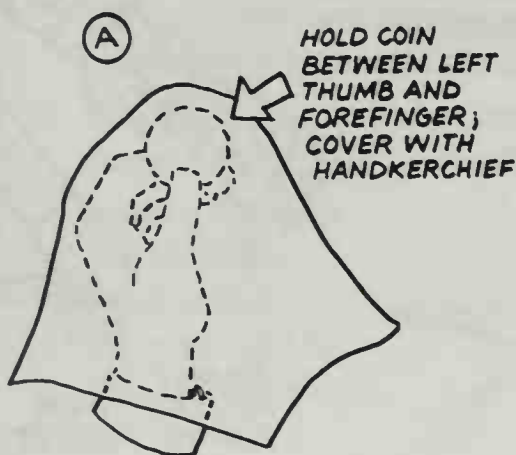
- large coin (no smaller than a quarter)
- handkerchief

Getting Ready

To get ready for this trick, you must practice. Only smooth, quick moves will give you the results you will need to astonish your audience.

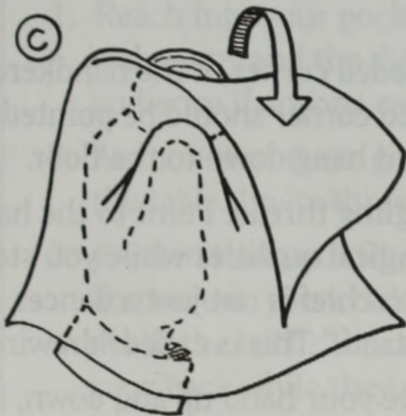
Show Time!

1. Hold the coin up between your left thumb and forefinger in front of the audience.
2. Cover your left hand with the handkerchief (A).
3. Grasp the coin through the handkerchief with your right hand.
4. Fold the coin and the handkerchief toward yourself once.
5. Reach under the handkerchief, grasp the coin, and make a fold with your left hand (B).
6. Fold back the corner of the handkerchief, facing the audience, to show them the coin is still there (C).



7. What makes this trick work? Cover the exposed coin again—but instead of bringing back only the one flap of the handkerchief, bring over the opposite flap as well (D). To the audience, it will look as if you just covered it up again normally.
8. Tightly twist the handkerchief just under the coin. It will appear to be wrapped snugly.
9. Work the coin out of the secret opening created by the folds of the handkerchief (E). If done smoothly, even you will think the coin has risen up through the handkerchief!

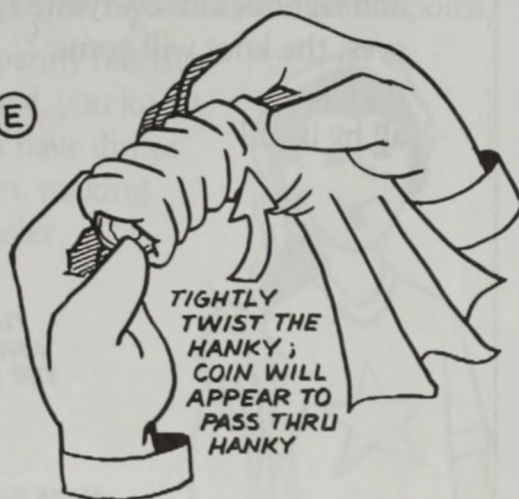
**FOLD BACK THE FRONT
CORNER OF THE HANKY
TO SHOW THE AUDIENCE
THE COIN IS STILL
UNDER THE HANKY**



**FOLD BACK,
BUT BRING
OVER THE
BACK FLAP
AS WELL**



E



**TIGHTLY
TWIST THE
HANKY;
COIN WILL
APPEAR TO
PASS THRU
HANKY**



What You'll Need

Getting Ready

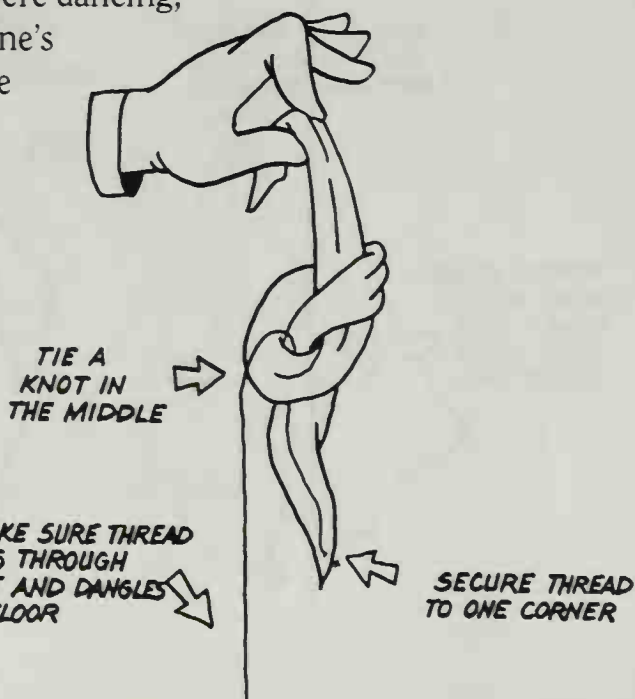
Show Time!

A handkerchief with a mind of its own? With magic, anything can happen! Learn how to make a knotted handkerchief dance itself undone in this impressive trick.

- large silky handkerchief
- 2 to 3 feet of black thread or ultrafine clear fishing line
- needle

To prepare the handkerchief, secure the thread or line to one corner of the handkerchief with the needle. Tie a good, strong knot and lay the thread back across the handkerchief.

1. Gather up the handkerchief and tie a single knot in the middle of it, making sure the thread or line runs right through its center.
2. Hold the unthreaded corner of the handkerchief in your fingertips. The threaded corner should be pointed toward the floor. The thread should hang down to the floor.
3. Step on the dangling thread. Point to the handkerchief and talk about its magical qualities while you step on the thread. Say, "This handkerchief is not just a dancer, it's a fancy dancer. It can untangle itself." This is called "drawing attention."
4. Next, gently move your hand up and down, back and forth to music as if the hanky were dancing, and right before everyone's eyes, the knot will come undone all by itself!





The Sound of Silver



What You'll Need

- clear-drying glue
- ¼-inch strand of your hair
- 2 pennies
- 3 twist-on bottle caps
- 1 dime
- sharp pencil

Getting Ready

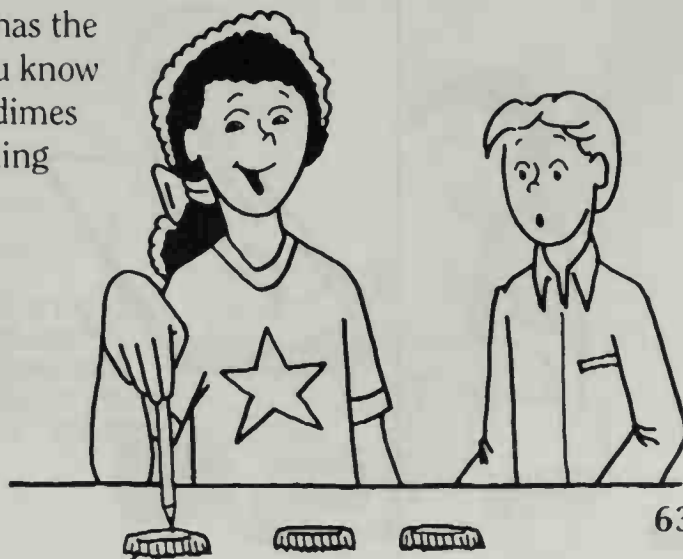
Half the fun of magic is knowing more than your friends do, or even pretending to know more, especially strange, unusual things like the difference between the sound of copper and silver!

Carefully glue the strand of hair to the penny so that the tiniest bit sticks out over the edge of it, just enough to stick out from under the edge of a bottle cap placed over the penny.

Just before your show, remember to put two pennies (one special, one ordinary) and one dime in one of your pockets.

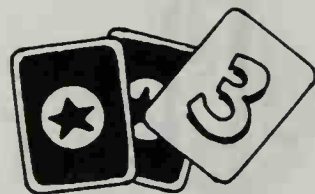
Show Time!

1. Reach into your pocket and pull out the change. Take the special penny and the dime and put them on the table. Ask the audience if anyone can spare another dime.
2. As soon as you are given the dime, put the three bottle tops on the table. Invite three volunteers onstage.
3. Explain that your fine-tuned ears can detect the sound of silver. To prove it, you would like them to arrange the coins underneath the bottle tops any way they wish, one coin per top. Turn your back while they do it.
4. When you turn around again, ask the audience for complete silence. Tap each top with your pencil point.
5. Since the penny has the hair attached, you know which tops have dimes under them, making it much easier to detect the silver!





Colorized



What You'll Need

Getting Ready

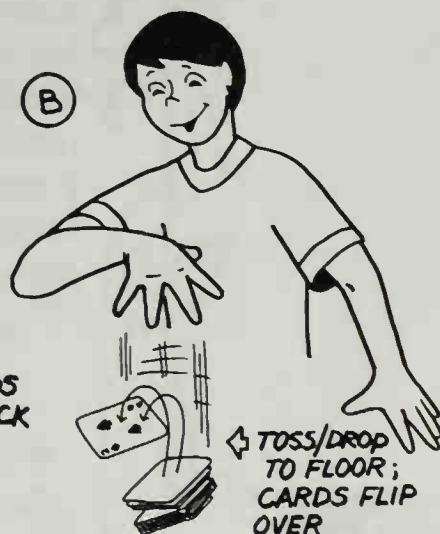
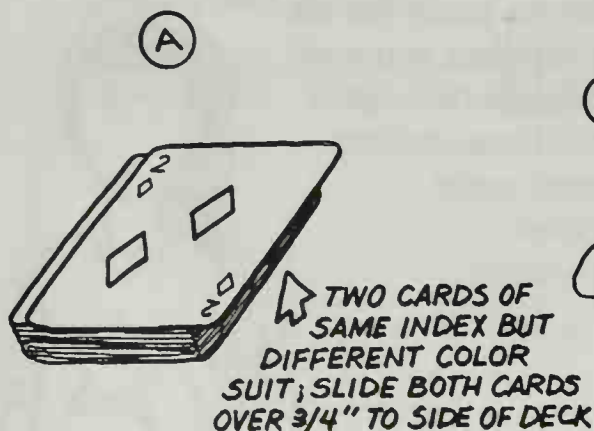
Show Time!

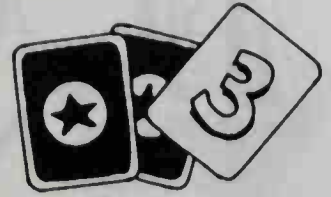
The next trick is so much fun to do—and is so unbelievable—that you will probably practice it more than any of the others just to see the ever-amazing results.

- deck of cards

First, arrange the deck so that the top two cards are the same number or face but are in different color suits: one 4 of diamonds and one 4 of spades, for example. After that, you just need to practice to get the trick right.

1. Hold the deck facedown in one hand.
2. Flip up the first card.
3. Slide that card, and the one right under it, about $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch over the side of the deck (over the left side if the deck is in your right hand, over the right side of the deck if it is in your left hand). Be sure to slide them over at the same time so they look like one (A).
4. Hold the deck in your hand, overhanded. Throw the pack firmly but neatly so the stack remains intact, onto the floor. (Be sure not to do it *too* hard, or you will be picking up a lot of cards!)
5. The rush of air will flip the top cards over, making the secret second card suddenly appear on top of the stack (B)!





What You'll Need

Show Time!

Make a penny penetrate a human hand!

- 7 pennies

1. Show your audience that you have seven pennies. Have a volunteer drop them one by one into your cupped hand and count them out loud. Tell the volunteer that you can make one of the pennies pass through his hand. Before you start putting the pennies in his hand, warn the volunteer that he must quickly close it once the seventh penny is dropped in.
2. Hold six of the pennies in your right hand and the seventh in your left. Making sure that the volunteer's hand is cupped, place the pennies into it one by one, counting them out loud. The first one won't make a noise, but the rest will clink.
3. When you get to the sixth penny, just clink it against the others in the volunteer's hand, and bring it out again hidden between your fingers. The seventh penny should be quickly dropped into your other hand.
4. Carefully and firmly cup your hand with the penny in it underneath the volunteer's fist so that his knuckles are facing downward.
5. Explain that it takes extreme concentration and incredible magic power to make pennies pass through skin and bones while you slowly flatten your hand against his knuckles. Now say, "Did you feel that? Look! I hold a penny in my hand. Quick! Count the pennies in your hand." Won't everyone be shocked to see only six pennies in the volunteer's hand!





A Head for Numbers



What You'll Need

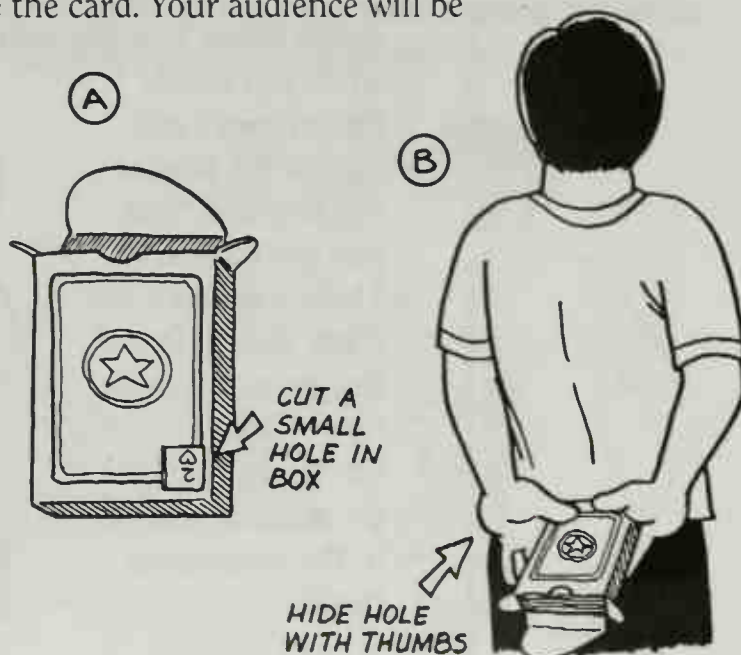
Show Time!

Use your mental powers to guess the name of a card right through a closed card box.

- scissors
- deck of cards
- box for card deck

Before the start of the show, cut a very small hole in one lower corner of the box (A).

1. Spread the cards out on the table.
2. Hold the empty card box behind your back with its top open and facing away from you. The special hole will be facing upward. Hold it at its lower end, and cover the hole with your thumbs (B).
3. Invite anyone from the audience to pick a card from the deck, look at the card, and remember it. Then have the volunteer insert the card faceup in the box and close the box while it is still in your hands behind your back.
4. The volunteer may be seated. Bring the box to your forehead. Say, "I can find out what card you had by reading your mind." As you lift the box over your eyes, glance into the hole to find out the identity of the card.
5. Place the closed box against your forehead with your eyes closed. Pretend to concentrate hard! You can even hum for effect. Name the card. Your audience will be impressed!





Mental Telepathy



What You'll Need

Getting Ready

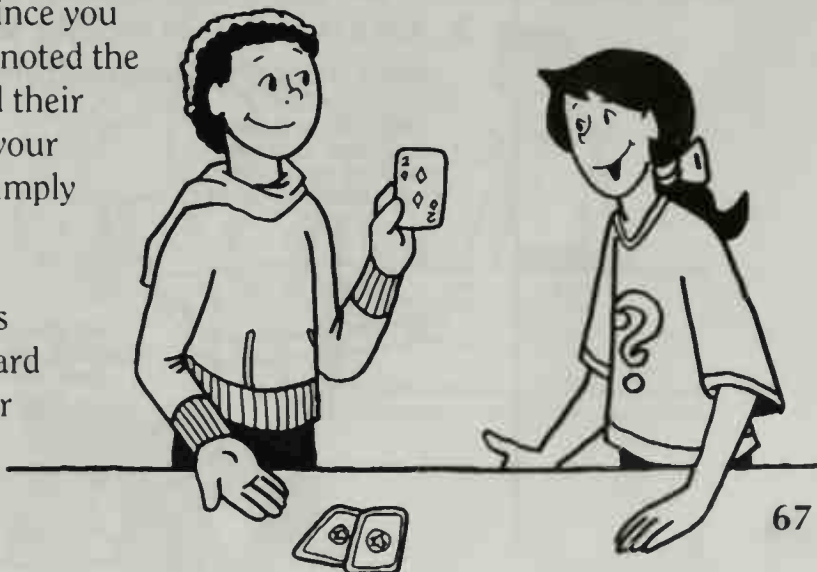
Show Time!

Can you read minds? It'll sure look like it with this trick of ESP!

- deck of cards

Before you begin, pick out any two cards from the deck and put them in your pocket.

1. Ask a volunteer to choose three cards and show them to you and the audience. They can be from anywhere in the deck. Ask another member of the audience to concentrate hard on one of the three cards.
2. Put the three cards in your pocket with the other two secret cards. (REMEMBER! Note the order in which you place the three cards in your pocket.)
3. Draw out the two cards that you put in your pocket before the show. Don't show them to the audience. They will appear to be two of the three you placed in your pocket a moment ago.
4. Lay the two cards facedown on top of the deck.
5. Say to the second volunteer, "If you have been thinking of your card, it will be the one still in my pocket." Ask her to name the card.
6. The volunteer gives the name of one of the three cards shown earlier. Since you carefully noted the cards and their order in your pocket, simply pull the audience member's chosen card from your pocket!





Houdini's Just Passing Through



What You'll Need

Getting Ready

Show Time!

Is it possible for a person to pass right through a playing card?

- playing card
- sharp pair of scissors

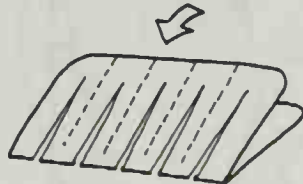
Preparation of the playing card is everything in this trick. Since you need to cut the card several times with a pair of scissors, you may want to practice a lot. You may also want a parent to help prepare the card for you. It is a good idea to practice with paper, then practice on cards in an incomplete deck. Steps 2–4 can be done before the magic show. Later, you can cut the card right onstage!

1. Show the audience that you have an ordinary playing card. Tell them you are going to walk through this card. Fold the card lengthwise, making a sharp crease with your fingernail or a pencil.
2. Starting at one end, cut from the fold almost to the edge of the card several times. Cuts should be $\frac{1}{8}$ inch apart (A).
3. Now make cuts from the edge, almost to the fold, in between the cuts you just made (B).
4. Cut each fold along the crease except for the outer two (C). If everything is done correctly, you will have created one very long, delicate chain, big enough for a person to pass through.
5. Ask a volunteer to hold the long chain in an arch. When you walk through the special card, everyone will be surprised!

(A) FOLD CARD LENGTHWISE AND CUT FROM FOLD TO NEAR THE EDGE SEVERAL TIMES



(B) CUT FROM THE EDGE TO NEAR THE FOLD, IN BETWEEN OTHER CUTS



(C) CUT EACH FOLD ALONG THE CREASE EXCEPT FOR THE OUTER TWO





Discard



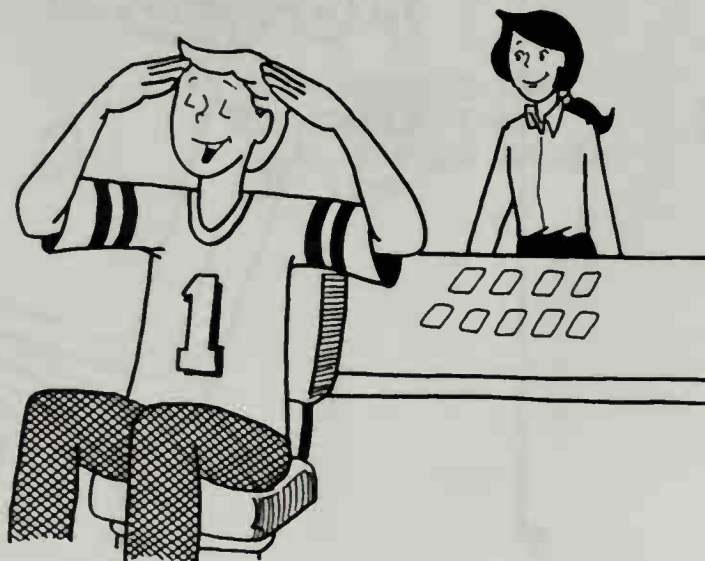
What You'll Need

- deck of cards

Show Time!

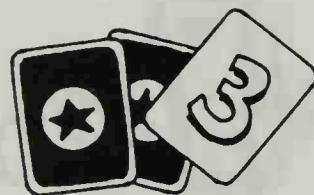
You can stump your friends over and over with this clever card trick.

1. Invite a member of the audience to the table to be your subject. Ask your volunteer to lay out two rows of cards, any number of them, as long as the bottom row has as many cards as the top row. You should be blindfolded or have your back to your subject. (You can even do this trick on the telephone with your subject!)
2. Instruct the volunteer to take one card away from the bottom row.
3. Now ask your volunteer to decide how many cards she would like to take from the top row. She should tell you this number and take away exactly that many cards from the top row only.
4. Now instruct her to take away from the bottom row the number of cards left in the top row.
5. Now tell the volunteer to get rid of the rest of the cards in the top row.
6. The object of having your back to the subject or being blindfolded or even on the phone is to correctly guess how many cards are left. The answer is always right if you remember the number of cards that your subject removed previously from the top row. It is always exactly *one* less than the number given!





Four Aces



What You'll Need

Getting Ready

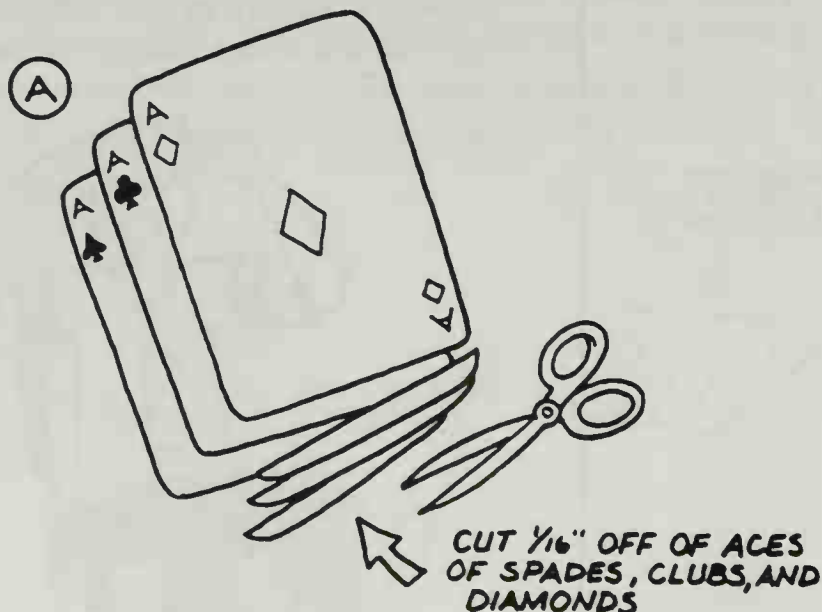
Show Time!

Watch four aces magically jump from the pack to the table! This trick takes practice and careful, swift hand movements.

- 2 decks of cards (both with the same back pattern)
- ruler
- large pair of scissors

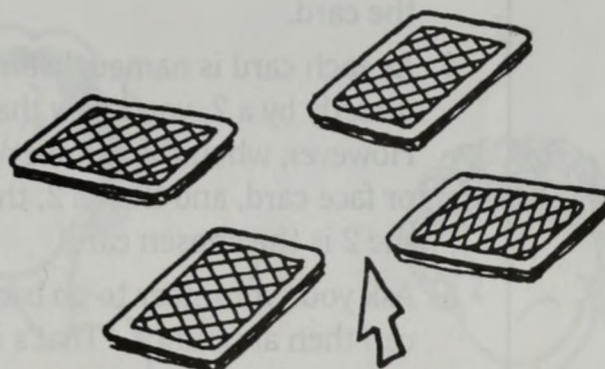
From one deck of cards, pull the ace of diamonds, ace of clubs, and ace of spades. Set the pack aside because it won't be needed anymore. Measure and cut $\frac{1}{16}$ inch off from the bottom of each of the aces (A). Before the performance, take the three cut aces and the normal ace of hearts from the other deck of cards and set all four cards in a pile on the table. Place the remaining three normal aces seventh, eighth, and ninth from the top in the deck (B).

1. Tell the audience you have removed the aces from the deck. Point to the pile on the table.
2. Lay each ace facedown on the table in this order: ace of clubs, ace of spades, ace of hearts, ace of diamonds. Let the audience see each one as you set it down.
3. Deal three cards from the top of the main deck on top of the ace of clubs, then the ace of spades, the ace of hearts, and finally the ace of diamonds.

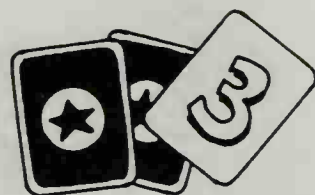


4. Ask an audience member to call out 1, 2, 3, or 4. Count off each pile of cards so that no matter which number is picked, the pile with the ace of hearts is always the stack on which the count ends.
5. Put the other three piles back on the main deck. Shuffle the deck.
6. Snap the back of the deck with your finger and say, "Ready." Slowly and carefully, flip through the deck so the audience can see the top of each card. Surprisingly, there are no aces! (The cut aces won't be seen because they are shorter.)
7. Invite someone from the audience to turn over the stack of cards left on the table. What will be found? Four aces!

(B)



**LAY ACES DOWN
ON TABLE, THEN
DEAL THREE CARDS
ON TOP**



What You'll Need

Getting Ready

Show Time!

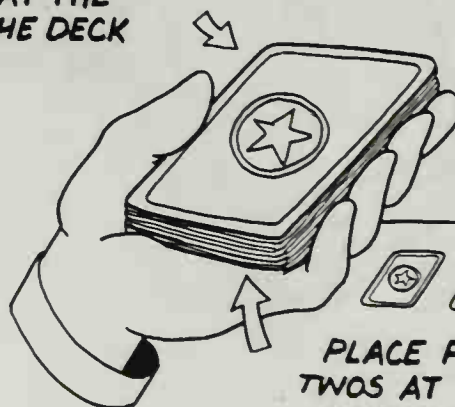
A volunteer's vocal vibrations will help identify a specific card in this mind-boggling magic trick!

- deck of cards

Before the magic show, place the four 8s at the top of the pack and the four 2s at the bottom of the pack.

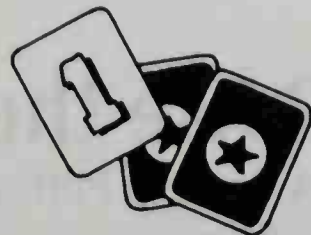
1. Have a volunteer take the deck of cards in her hand and deal out all the cards into four piles.
2. After dealing the cards, ask the volunteer to pick one card from the middle of the pile, look at it, remember it, and put it on top of another pile.
3. Ask her to stack the four piles on top of each other. Then have her flip over and name each card, one at a time. Tell your volunteer that vibrations in her voice will give away the identity of the card.
4. As each card is named, listen for the number 8. If it is followed directly by a 2, you know that the chosen card is not near. However, when the number 8 is followed by another number or face card, and then a 2, the number in between the 8 and the 2 is the chosen card!
5. Ask your volunteer to go back and name the last few again. You can then announce, "That's it! I can feel the vibrations!"

PLACE FOUR EIGHTS AT THE TOP OF THE DECK



HAVE VOLUNTEER DEAL OUT ALL THE CARDS INTO FOUR PILES

PLACE FOUR TWOS AT THE BOTTOM



What You'll Need

Getting Ready

Show Time!

Test your friends' math wit with this brainteaser at school or at a magic show!

- 1 dime

- 1 nickel

Before you begin, secretly place the dime and nickel in your hand. Make a fist around the coins.

1. "I am holding two American coins in my hand that add up to fifteen cents. One of them is not a dime," you say.
2. Pick a volunteer to figure out the problem. The answers given will be very surprising. You may not get any answers at all!
3. When you think the volunteer has had enough, open your hand and say, "I said one of them was not a dime, and I'm right—it's a nickel!"



NOTE: Get ready to run!

Raise the Curtain!

(A Guide to Putting on Your Own Magic Show)

Okay, so you have practiced your tricks until you can do them in your sleep. Now what? Time to put on a show! But how? Here are a few pointers that will help you to organize your thoughts and tricks to form a show of magic and mystery in front of a—gulp!—real audience.

Choose a location for your show.

First you need to figure out where you'll be performing. Outside or inside? In a house or an auditorium? If it is going to be outside, plan for wind. It may not be windy during your program, but you should plan for that possibility by using heavy props or using something to weigh down lighter equipment.

Another very important factor you must plan for is how your audience will be seated. How close will they be to you? Will everyone be able to see, or will they be able to see *too much*? Will the entire audience be seated in front of you, or will you be surrounded on all four sides by audience members? You might not be able to perform certain tricks if there are people seated behind you. They will be able to see things you may not want them to see.

Know your audience.

Obviously, you must know what type of audience you will be performing for before you plan your show. Will little kids be in the audience? Is the entire audience made up of kids your age, or are they all going to be adults? If there is a mixture of people, then you should present a variety of magic that will appeal to all ages present.



Whoever your audience is, never present your tricks in a manner that makes you look superior to the members. You don't want to come off as someone who seems to be saying, "Look what I can do, and you can't," when you are demonstrating one of your magic tricks. Your audience is there to be entertained, not insulted.

Outline your show.

Once you know where you'll be performing and who will be watching, you need to choose your tricks. The flow of your show is very important. Plan a quick attention-getting trick to start your show with a bang. That way you can be sure to grab your audience early on. End your performance with a really big, impressive trick that will leave them talking.

Now decide the order in which you will perform the rest of your tricks. Make sure there are no lulls or any "slow time." The audience should be mystified and entertained the entire time. An easy way to see how your show is moving is to have all your tricks written out on index cards. Lay out the index cards in the order you think your show should go. Now you can move the cards around and change the location of certain tricks until your show flows the best it possibly can.



Put together a prop list.

Create a list of the props you will need for each trick. This compilation of items will serve as a checklist to see that you have everything needed for your show before you start. It will also come in handy after the show to be sure you don't leave anything behind. Check and double check this list before and after each show.

Choose an appropriate costume or outfit.

What kind of costume should you wear in your show? Should you wear a costume at all? It depends on what kind of image you are trying to create.

Are you presenting the magic as yourself, or are you playing the part of an ancient sorcerer or conjurer? Are you going to be a serious magician or a humorous one? Whatever decision you make, your clothes or costume should reflect that. The more you look like the character you are trying to portray, the more your audience will believe it.

Leave 'em wanting more!

Your props are all in place, and your costume is just right. You have your show together. Now is the time to bring up one of the most important rules to remember as a magician: Less is more. What this means is, always finish your show with the audience wanting to see more. Nothing is more boring than a magician who doesn't know when to quit!

Follow the outline that you prepared for your show, and perform only those tricks. If your audience demands more when you've finished, go ahead and perform an encore—in this case, an additional trick or two—if you are prepared to do so. After that, stop. No matter how well your show went, and no matter how tempting it may be to continue—hold off. If they truly enjoyed your performance, they will be eager to see you perform again in the future. One of the best things you can do as a budding magician is to create anticipation in your audience to want to see you again.

Magic Terms

betcha—A stunt or a puzzle the magician presents that is not really a magic trick. Instead, these are usually challenges to the audience wherein a volunteer will try again and again only to fail. The magician, however, can *always* achieve the desired result. Betchas are also different from magic tricks in that the methods to all magic tricks are kept secret, but the secret to a betcha is divulged as soon as the magician demonstrates it.

close-up magic—Magic that can be performed at a table or in people's hands. Usually, close-up magic can be performed with people sitting next to you and often involve cards, coins, rubber bands, or other small objects.

effect—Another name for "magic trick." They are called either magic tricks or magic effects.

escapologist—Official name for an "escape artist." This person can escape from any restraint he or she is placed into. Harry Houdini, one of the most amazing magicians ever, was also an escapologist.

legerdemain—Another term for "magic" or "sleight of hand."

levitation—Any of a number of magic tricks where the magician seemingly causes someone or something to float without any visible means of support.

load—Any object or a number of objects hidden that the magician "magically" reveals to the audience at some time during the trick. Sometimes the magician is required to get this load from one place to another without it being detected. Other times the load is already in place, but is kept hidden until the right moment. For examples of a load, see:

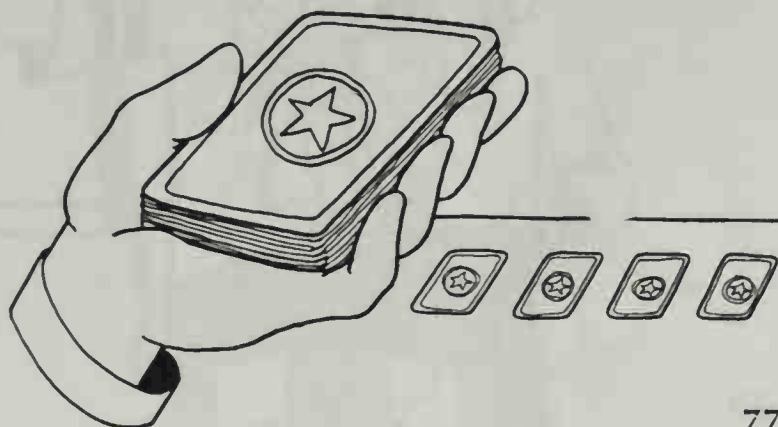
Trick #2, "Classic Cups and Balls"

Trick #32, "The Turning Box"

location—A term usually associated with card tricks. Most card tricks fall into this category. A card is selected and put back into the deck. The magician then locates that card in some magical manner.

See:

Trick #49, "All in the Voice"



mentalism—The name given to the branch of magic in which the performer appears to read people's minds or know the outcome of future events before they occur. The person who performs mentalism is not called a "magician," but a "mentalist." A mentalist calls the tricks he or she performs "experiments." These "experiments" are usually one of four types:

clairvoyance—A mental effect where the mentalist apparently receives his or her information from outside sources unknown to everybody but the mentalist.

precognition—A mental experiment in which the mentalist knows of something before it happens. This is usually proven by way of revealing a prediction of some sort that was made by the mentalist before the experiment began.

telepathy—In this type of experiment, the mentalist "links minds" with someone else. Either the mentalist "receives the volunteer's thoughts" or "sends" his or her thoughts to the volunteer.

telekinesis—The apparent ability to physically move objects using only the power of the mind. For examples of tricks in mentalism, see:

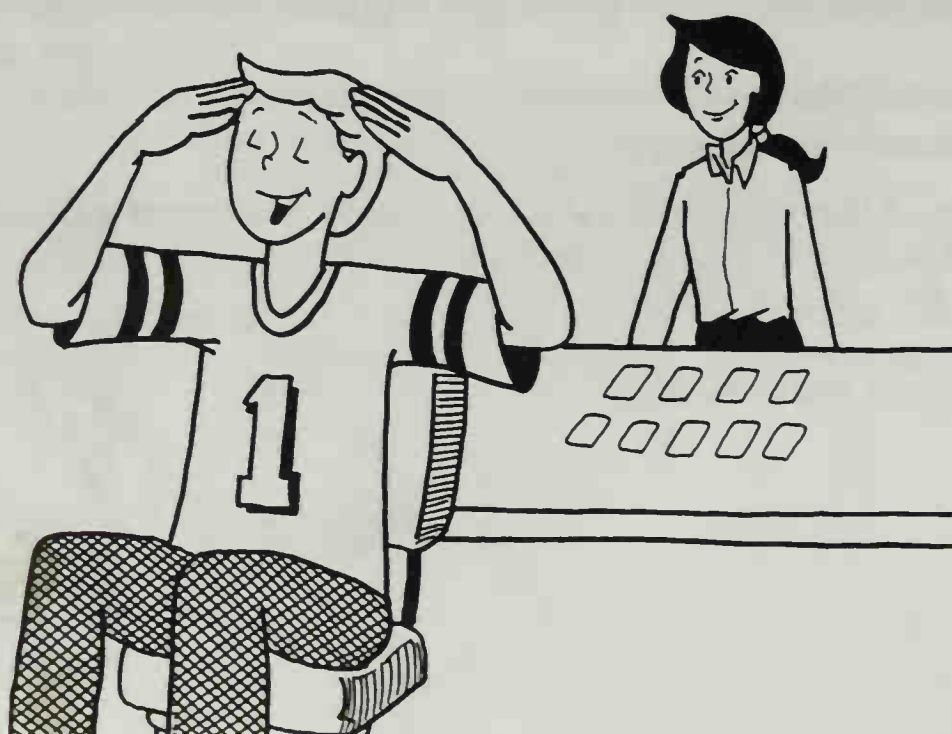
Trick #24, "Mind Reader"

Trick #44, "A Head for Numbers"

Trick #45, "Mental Telepathy"

Trick #47, "Discard"

misdirection—The name given to the ability to divert the audience's attention away from the secret of the trick. Basically, it is "making them look where you want them to look." Most magicians rely heavily on misdirection throughout their performance.



palming—The process of secretly hiding one or more small objects in the hand while, at the same time, keeping the hand in a natural position as if it contains nothing. If this is done properly, the object is never detected. The following tricks use palming:

Trick #7, "The Tissue Tease"

Trick #35, "Good News!"

patter—What the magician says to his or her audience while performing a trick. Another way of putting it is to say that patter is the "script" to the trick.

penetration—Any magic trick involving two solid objects passing through one another. This type of magic effect can be found in:

Trick #14, "Breakthrough!"

Trick #39, "The Mystical Coin"

Trick #43, "Penny-tration"

prestidigitation—Another name for "sleight of hand." A magician is sometimes called a "prestidigitator."

production—Any magic trick involving the sudden appearance of someone or something. This object or person can appear from nowhere or out of a box or container that was previously shown empty. Tricks of production are found in:

Trick #15, "Ribbons Around Us"

Trick #32, "The Turning Box"

Trick #35, "Good News!"

Trick #38, "Tricky Pockets"

pull—A device used by magicians to make objects disappear. There are many different styles and shapes of pulls that can make a variety of objects vanish. For examples, see:

Trick #1, "Big Squeeze"

Trick #10, "Zap Ball"





3 9999 03187 347 2

restoration—Any trick where the magician destroys something (by tearing or cutting, for example), then magically puts it back together. See:

Trick #22, "Ice Slice"

suspension—A type of magic trick in which the magician causes someone or something to hang suspended at an angle or location that defies the law of gravity. You can see tricks of suspension in:

Trick #12, "The Ball Tube"

Trick #23, "Magic Bottle"

thaumaturgy—Another word for "magic."

transformation—Any trick involving the magical changing of one object into another. For examples, see:

Trick #5, "Tip Over Tube"

Trick #7, "The Tissue Tease"

Trick #9, "Super Paper"

Trick #17, "Balloon Magic"

Trick #31, "The Ching-Chang Basket"

Trick #42, "Colorized"

transposition—Any magic trick where the magician causes two or more people or objects to magically switch places. This magic effect can be found in:

Trick #33, "Out of Order"

Trick #48, "Four Aces"

vanish—Any magic trick in which the magician causes an object or a person to disappear without a trace. Examples of vanishing tricks appear in:

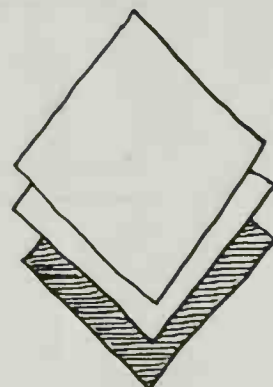
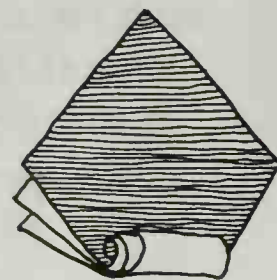
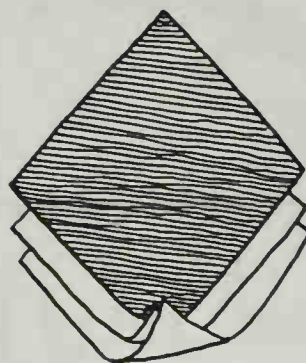
Trick #1, "Big Squeeze"

Trick #6, "What Water?"



Trick #10, "Zap Ball"

Trick #11, "Ball Gone"

Trick #34, "Disappearing Card"



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“Ta-Dah!”

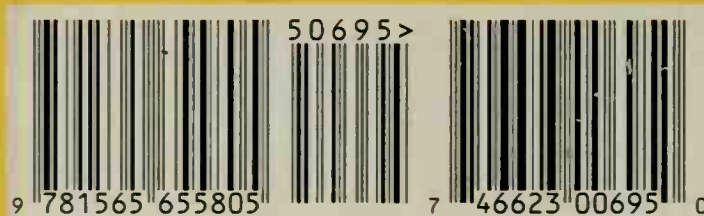
Make things appear or disappear at will, create feats of illusion that will mystify and dazzle friends and family—it's all here in *50 Nifty Super Magic Tricks*. With fifty fun-to-do tricks to amaze and impress, every trick features step-by-step instructions and is rated according to level of difficulty.

This super edition also contains practical suggestions for the first-time magician and everything you need to know to put on your own magic show.

Glossary of magician's terms included!



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